



# Photo voice: Pushing the boundaries of participatory research



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#### **Outline**

- Why photo voice?
- Challenges
- Alcohol use among youth in Tanzania
- Intimate partner violence trial (MAISHA)
- Lessons and recommendations







## Why photo voice?

- Expand 'space' for participatory research
  - Participatory photography
- Address power imbalances
  - Researchers vs. participants
- 'Democratisation' of research'?
- Additional insights into the community perspectives
- •Identifies priority problems of communities even if not focus of research







## Why photo voice (2)

#### Complements limitations of other methods

- 'Intrusion of outsider' effect
- Captures information that is difficult to get through conversation
- Reduces effect of language barriers & illiteracy in data collection
- Impactful presentation of research results





## **Development & use**

- Historically used on marginalised groups
  - Homeless women
  - Women experiencing violence
  - Youth (e.g. those living in streets)



- Used in combination with other methods
  - Interviews & group discussions
- Community engagement
  - Photo exhibitions





## **Challenges**

### Safety

- Retaliation from those who misunderstand the purpose
- Theft of cameras

#### Ethics

- Appropriateness of 'unprofessional' researchers collecting data
- Obtaining consent to take & use photos
- Exposing data collectors and community members to risk of retaliation
- Use of images could be abused -especially if posted online







# Alcohol use among youth in Tanzania







#### **Objectives**

Document alcohol availability, pricing, packaging, promotion and advertisement

Explore how young people experience the effects of alcohol in their daily lives; how availability, promotion, price etc drives risk

Explore how alcohol consumption interacts with economic livelihood of youth

Document existing national and local level policies; opportunities to better protect youth

Methods

**GIS Mapping** 

Photo documentation

PhotoVoice + Participatory Group Discussions (PGDs)

PhotoVoice +PGDs

Key informant interviews
Desk review







#### Photo voice and Participatory Group Discussions

- Purposive sampling
- Youth 18-24
- Informal sector employees
  - Women: food vendors and tailors
  - Men: garage mechanics, carpenters, welders

#### Youth recruited from their working sites

Owners and local leaders used in recruitment

#### Participants

- Mwanza; 12 men, 8 women
- Moshi; 8 men, 5 women





### **Training of research team**

- •Young researchers trained on:
  - Photography
  - Ethics
  - Anonymity
- Researchers trained youth
  - One day intensive & focused training
  - 3 days of additional mostly practical training









## **Training of youth**

#### Skills

- Basic photography
- Photo techniques
  - Concealing identities of individuals



- Verbal consent
- Written consent











#### **Data collection**

- •Given camera & took pictures for one week
- Support visits
  - Technical support
  - 'Gentle reminder'
  - Moral support
- Later selected photos for use in group discussions
  - Explained what each photo represented
  - Made captions for each photo





## **Photo exhibition**









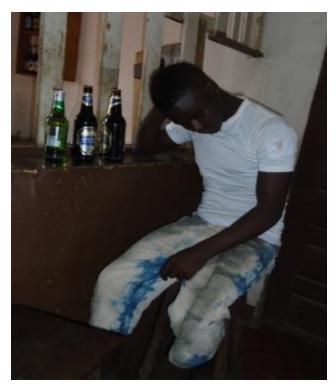




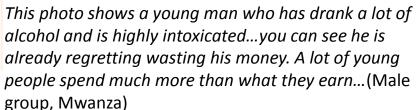
#### **Effects of alcohol use**

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#### Economic consequences













#### Environmental consequences





-People who use alcohol regarded as having little respect for the environment





## Children exposure to alcohol









## **Alcohol adverts**









# Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) trial (MAISHA)







## **Objectives**

#### **Explores:**

- •Structural, socio-cultural and individual factors associated with IPV
- How the intervention impacts the lives of the participants and their families
- •Risk factors that contribute to women's vulnerability to violence and how the intervention may reduce these risks







### **Methods**

- In-depth interviews
- Focus group discussions
- Interviews with key informants
- Photo voice with women







## Methods(2)

- •9 women purposively selected for data collection
  - 5 intervention arm; 4 control arm
- Women from 2 wards (admin units) in Mwanza city
- Underwent two days training
  - In class lectures & discussions (day 1)
  - Practical training on participatory photography (day 2)







## **Training of women**

#### Skills

- Basic photography
- Photo techniques
  - Concealing identities of individuals

#### Consenting

- Verbal consent
- Written consent









#### **Data collection**

- •Given phone with camera & took pictures for one week
- Support visits
  - Technical support
  - 'gentle reminder'
  - Moral support
- Later selected photos for use in interview







# **Healthy relationship**









## Daily activities of women

Domestic activities

Income generating activities

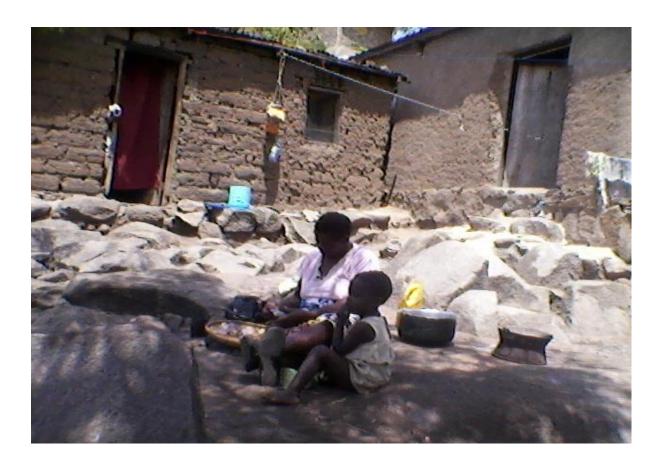








# **Poverty**









# **Family responsibilities**









#### **Lessons & recommendations**

- Feasible to conduct in resource limited settings
- Both cameras and phone cameras worked well
  - Photo quality of cameras better
- Choice of type of cameras should consider:
  - Context
  - Topic & study population
- In Mwanza normal for women to have phones with cameras BUT not actual cameras







## Lessons & recommendations (2)

- Support visits crucial
  - Resolve technical hitches
  - 'Reminder' about taking photos
  - Moral support to participants
- No cases of security threats
- Only one cameras lost Youth & alcohol study
- Photo exhibition successful Youth & alcohol study







## Lessons & recommendations (3)

- Some women took fewer pictures than expected
  - This could be due to partner or community interference



 Some of the images were of things 'not directly related to the topic of inquiry'





### Lessons & recommendations (4)

- For MAISHA study
  - Pictures enabled women to talk about relationships and violence more freely and with clear examples



- For youth & alcohol study
  - Pictures enabled youth to capture powerful images about effects of alcohol





# Thank you!







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- Saidi Kapiga

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- John Changalucha
- Joyce Wamoyi

#### **Study participants**

- Young people in Mwanza and Kilimanjaro regions
- Women in the MAISHA study

For more information on STRIVE www.strive.lshtm.ac.uk







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