



# **RC3 Long Night of Research, 1st Edition: Volunteer and Volunteerism Development**

23 - 24 March 2023 , online



# Kind reminder:

## During the session:

- Rename yourself: Full Name + Organisation
- Mute your microphone
- Keep your video on (switch off if low connectivity)

## If you have questions to the speakers:

- **Ideally:** Use the Q&A feature to ask your question
- **Second option:** Use the raise hand feature, the moderator will ask you to unmute yourself.

## If you have IT questions:

- Ask your question in the chat, an administrator will help you.

## Confidentiality statement and data protection

- Sessions will be recorded
- Participants commit not taking pictures of screen or of other participants without permission
- The slides from this session will be shared afterwards



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# Innovative and Participatory Approaches to Volunteering Research: Learning from the Refugee Youth Volunteering Uganda Project

**Dr Bianca Fadel**

**Prof Matt Baillie Smith**

**Dr Moses Okech**

## What to expect from this session?

- **Brief introduction** about the project and partnership with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- Highlights from the **participatory methodologies** in the Refugee Youth Volunteering Project (RYVU)
- **Interactive exercise** :)
- **Areas to keep in mind** when adopting the photovoice method in volunteering research
- Highlights from the use of **interactive games** for advocacy, impact and dissemination
- **Q&A and Discussion**



# RYVU

Refugee Youth  
Volunteering Uganda

Project formed Youth Advisory Boards in each site and partnered with local and organisations, including the IFRC and Uganda Red Cross Society



RYVU Youth Advisory Board in Nakivale

**Aim:** Understand whether volunteering by refugee youth in Uganda helps their skills acquisition and employability and reduces the inequalities they experience

## Key collaborative approach in a snapshot:

- 9 researchers across 4 universities (in Uganda and the UK) + respective professional services
- 10 stakeholder partners (in Uganda and beyond)
- 30 Youth Advisory Members in the 4 research sites (Bidibidi, Kampala, Nakivale and Rwamwanja)
- Over **3,800 participants**, including young and adult refugees, employers, government officials, and staff from humanitarian and development agencies and community-based organisations
- Mixed-methods approach, including **participatory methodologies**

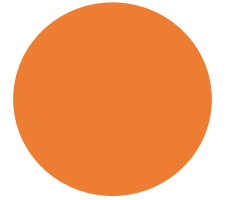
# What is photovoice and why have we used it?

## Photovoice is defined as:

*“A process by which people can identify, represent, and enhance their community through a specific photographic technique.”* (Wang & Burris, 1997, p.369)

## Photovoice has been part of the mixed-methods approach of the RYVU research project aiming to:

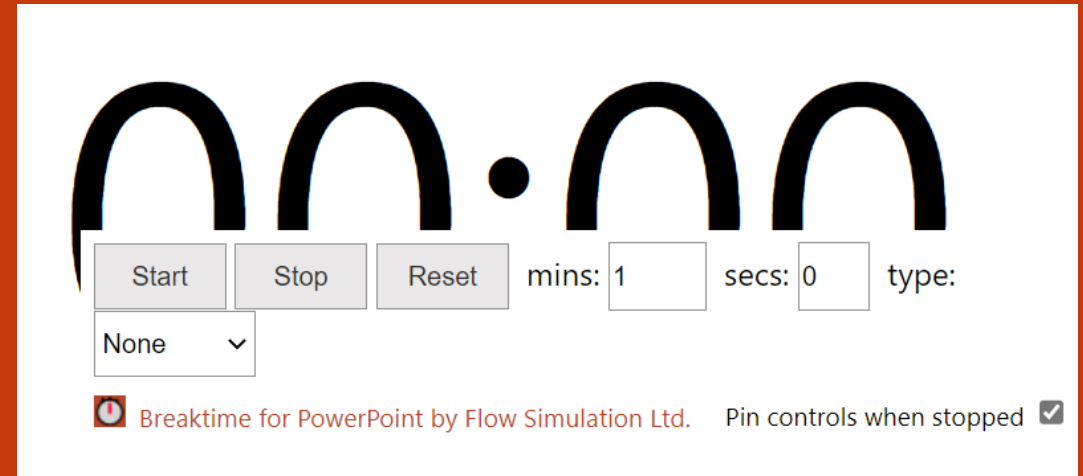
- Allow participant-led identification of what is important and has meaning for them;
- Provide a way of documenting lived experience as it happens over time;
- Provide both data and resources for engagement, advocacy and learning.





# MINI PHOTOVOICE EXERCISE

In the next minute, if you have a camera/ smartphone, please take a photo of your surroundings.



## Guiding questions:

- Where is your work/volunteering activity taking place?
- What are the equipment/materials that are relevant for your work or volunteering?



Now please click on the link in the  
chat box or type  
**www.menti.com** in your internet  
browser and use the code

**1151 4923**

Go to [www.menti.com](https://www.menti.com) and use the code **1151 4923**

Open Mentimeter

If your picture were to be showcased in an exhibition, how would you caption it?

6 Answers



Psychosocial support

Workplace

Working with the light coming in as the day ends

Electrifying creativity: laptop work station in an electronics workshop

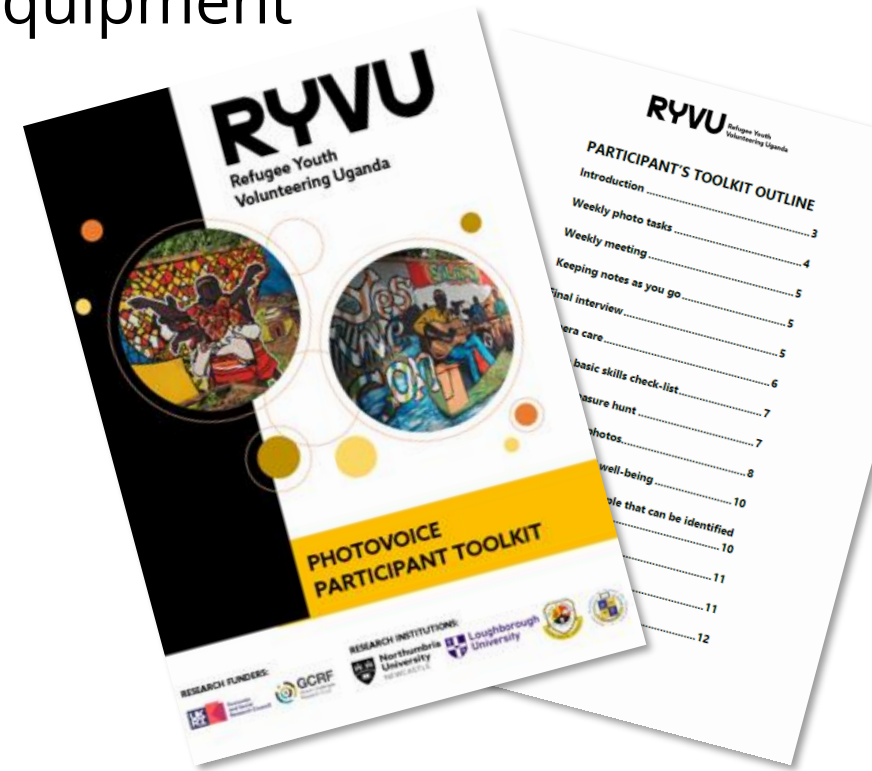
More than a working place, it is also a second home where people with the same mindset are gathered



|               | Theme                                                  | Guiding questions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Week 1</b> | <b>Volunteering Spaces, Sites and Places</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where are the places that are relevant for your volunteering?</li> <li>Where is your volunteering activity taking place?</li> <li>Where do you find out about volunteering?</li> </ul>                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Week 2</b> | <b>Everyday Volunteering Experiences and Practices</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are the activities that you do for volunteering?</li> <li>Who do you volunteer with?</li> <li>How do you prepare to do your volunteering?</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Week 3</b> | <b>Impact and Change</b>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is different in your life as a result of your volunteering?</li> <li>How does volunteering impact your life?</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Week 4</b> | <b>Covid-19 effects and Wrap-up</b>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How has Covid-19 affected your volunteering?</li> <li>Are there any topics from previous weeks that you would like to get back to?</li> <li>Is there anything else that you would like to highlight in relation to your volunteering experience that was not covered in the previous weeks?</li> </ul> |

# RYVU Photovoice approach in a nutshell

- 1) Thematic planning according to research questions and toolkit development
- 2) Ethical considerations (e.g. consent; remuneration)
- 3) Identification of participants and supervisors; workshop training and equipment
- 4) Monitoring of activities and photo uploading to secure servers
- 5) Photo-elicitation interviews focusing on photos pre-selected by participants in their preferred order





# Examples of images from RYVU photovoice



**Photographer Milka Nzambimana (Nakivale settlement)**

**"Information is power."**

*"Many youth in our community normally come to this place to find adverts about different job and volunteering opportunities by different organisations and even the private sector in the notice boards."*

**Photographer Denilson Polepole (Kampala city)**

**"Volunteering can take place anywhere."**

*"She is a family member... I went one day to visit her, and she was selling those bananas on the road. So, I really said, she's really volunteering on the road selling bananas..."*

**Visit the RYVU virtual gallery: [www.ryvu.org/gallery-exhibition](http://www.ryvu.org/gallery-exhibition)**



# RYVU Innovative Approach through Interactive Games

- **RYVU Photo Pairing Game: card matching game** inviting players to engage with photos taken by young refugee volunteers and to try and pair them with the photographers' descriptions of the pictures, encouraging participants to consider different angles when interpreting refugee volunteering experiences.
- **RYVU Volunteering Journey: role play game** inviting players to step into the shoes of refugee volunteers and take on challenges and opportunities from different perspectives, opening up discussions on personal volunteering experiences and key concerns to take into account when engaging volunteers.
- **RYVU Volunteering Diamond: ranking game** inviting players to reflect on their own motivations to volunteer and how the meanings of volunteering can be perceived differently by others, allowing participants to discuss what impacts this might have on volunteering policy and practice.



Download the RYVU games in AR, EN, FR, SW: [www.ryvu.org/games](http://www.ryvu.org/games)

***"The game is a winner and will prompt many discussions on volunteering in Uganda at all levels – grassroots, national and regional levels."***

***Feedback from NGO Stakeholder in Uganda***

***"Great initiative! As a result of engaging with the research, I will be considering challenges in a different way."***

***Feedback from International NGO Stakeholder***

***"The game brought a new way of collaboration, engagement and working with the refugees and the people in the community, highlighting also the importance of inclusion of refugees in all the activities and decisions done for and through them."***

***Feedback from Community Based Organisation stakeholder in Uganda***

## **Creative Resources as Tools for Advocacy, Impact and Dissemination of Volunteering Research**





# DISCUSSION AND Q&A

**Thank you for joining us today as part of the RC3 event:**

**<https://www.rc3events.org/>**

**More information about the RYVU project: [www.ryvu.org](http://www.ryvu.org)**

**Twitter: [@RYVUganda](https://twitter.com/RYVUganda)**