Sensitization Document for
Photographers, Journalists & Other Members of the Media

Taking videos and photos with FB, issues for reflection and concern.

Taking videos or photos of community health workers and or clients, often in emotional turmoil or highly stressed circumstances brings up ethical questions. Images (no matter the format) can cause great harm and offence if they are too intrusive, are taken without consent or if they are manipulated.

FB works with film makers and photographers in a variety of ways, sometimes under a formal contract, sometimes very informally. Whether you are under a contract with FB or not, we would like you to read this document carefully before you start work, in order that you understand our organisation’s concerns.

1) As health care implementers, we have a privileged relationship with both the clients who visit the Friendship Bench as well as the community health workers (CHWs) delivering the intervention. Clients put themselves in our care, and trust us to provide the help needed to get them through their struggles. It is our responsibility to ensure that both CHW and clients come to no harm while in our sphere of influence. The FB team have been told to intervene if they witness a photographer or cameraman acting in a way which may harm the interests of any client or community health worker.

2) Be aware that the subject of a photograph may be harmed in different ways, for example: stigmatisation, security, dignity, privacy/confidentiality.

3) FB is not generally the “owner” of the facility in which we work – often the structure belongs to the Ministry of Health or local community. To avoid any issues, it is vital that a photographer gets permission from the necessary authorities running the facility before starting to work.

4) Gaining consent from the subject of the photograph: We firmly feel that it is not just about having a piece of paper signed but it is the quality of consent obtained; building rapport, respecting culture and not being manipulative. Please endeavour to partake in

   a) We are aware that the FB team does not have an equal levelled relationship with the CHWs and clients in our care. When a photographer enters the clinic with an FB team member does the CHW or client feel able to refuse to have their photo taken, or might they be worried of upsetting the person treating them in case it jeopardises their work or care? Consent should be discussed in the precise context where you are working with the FB team.
b) Consent negotiations must be carried out in the subject’s native language. The FB team who are accompanying you can for you, but please be very clear with them that both CHW and client are perfectly entitled to say no.

c) Please explain any possible uses of the film or photos you capture. If a subject is very concerned about the impact of being photographed, then don’t. It is not realistic or possible for the FB team to promise CHW or clients limited use of the picture, e.g. not on the internet, not in their home country.

d) Please work with subjects to make them comfortable with the photo process – allow them to keep their anonymity where they desire to do so.

e) We strongly recommend that photographers do not pay subjects to take their photos. The FB team will provide details on what reimbursements are suitable and safeguard our need to maintain equity across all in the community setting.

This reimbursement us usually in the form of a ‘basic living pack’.
(Prices costed in US$ on 06.03.2020, visit https://www.foodworld.co.zw/ for costing guage.)

2l of cooking oil ($3.61) + 
375ml peanut-butter or jam ($2.39) +
500g packet of dried sugar beans (500gms)
= Approximately US$7.65/ person.

5) Collecting data to accompany images: Without proper data to accompany images, we may not be able to use your output. We ask photographers collaborating with FB to provide written information to help us accurately describe the contents of an image. This should, at a minimum, include: the date, place, a description of situation.

6) Security matters: Please be aware that the FB team will stay in a location long after you leave. We often have a precarious relationship with the authorities and other political/military actors in the region. Ideally, before you start working in the field, a member of the FB team will brief you about local security rules. The FB team on the ground will be concerned about the implications that your behaviour might have on the safety of everyone involved. Please be understanding about their concern and try and cooperate. On occasion, we may ask to have a visible arms-length relationship with you. You will have a more comfortable time working with the FB field teams if you can agree a few practical matters with them in advance. For example, will you be expected to follow the same safety rules as all FB team members?
7) We consider it important to stay in contact with photographers after they return from a field trip in order to be able to make a proper selection of images and clarify any data and possible uses. Please ensure we have up-to-date contact details for you.

8) FB reserves the right to intervene and/or stop the actions and conduct of any photographer who we deem to in any way jeopardize the work of our CHW or the respect and confidentiality of our clients. FB requests the right to review any photography prior to being published to ensure the dignity and respect of both our CHW and clients.

I acknowledge I have read, understood and will adhere to the above text.

Date: ___________________________________________________________________________________

Photographer name: __________________________________________________________________________

Photographer organisation: ___________________________________________________________________

Photographer e-mail: __________________________. Phone: _________________________________

Photographer signature: ______________________________________________________________________
Sample Consent Form for External Photographers visiting FB

This consent form is intended for client's/ lay/ community health workers to grant consent for publication of material about them, or featuring their image, photograph or voice recording.

Client / CHW print name: ________________________________ Date: _________________

I give my consent for photographs and other materials to appear in Friendship Bench materials.

I indemnify the photographer (name of visiting journalist, film maker, photographer visiting FB), and FB of any claims against them for use of these pictures.

I understand that:
(1) anonymity cannot be guaranteed. It is possible that somebody somewhere - for example, somebody who looked after me if I was in hospital may identify me.
(2) the material will also be placed on the FB’s website and social media sites. At the moment these sites are open to everybody for free.
3) the material may also be used in printed publications from FB.
(4) the material will not be used for advertising or packaging.
(5) images may be used in news stories in print or online versions by the photographer.

I also give consent for the material to be used in other publications that may approach FB so long as the following criteria are met:
(1) The material will not be used for advertising or packaging.
(2) The material will not be used out of context - for example, a picture will not be used to illustrate an article that is unrelated to the subject of the photograph.

I confirm that I am over 18 years of age, and that I have read and understood the above terms.

Received reimbursement: YES_____ : NO_____

Signed by Client/ CHW : ________________________________

PHOTOGRAPHER DETAILS

Photographer name: ________________________________ Signature; ________________________________

Photographer e-mail: ________________________________ Phone: ________________________________