

“How-to” Teaching Videos – inspired by work in South Sudan

Deborah Van Dyke

Director, Global Health Media Project.

Correspondence:

Deborah Van Dyke

deb@globalhealthmedia.org

Submitted: June 2022

Accepted: July 2022

Published: August 2022



ABSTRACT

Global Health Media Project creates teaching videos on basic health care practices for providers and people in low-resource settings. The organization was founded by Deborah Van Dyke, whose work and experience in South Sudan helped her see that practical, “how-to” videos would be an effective way to teach health workers at scale. Their live-action videos—filmed in developing world clinics—feature “best-practice” care with real patients. They have now produced more than 200 videos that fill an important gap in health care education worldwide.

Key words: video, global health, health workers, training, films

INTRODUCTION

South Sudan was my home during four missions with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) from 2002 to 2008 when I worked in Akeum, Marial Lou, Yambio, and Pibor. See Figures 1 and 2.

We saw health problems that providers in most developed countries can only imagine: tetanus, severe malnutrition, terrible infections, tuberculosis, snake bites. While our clinics made valuable contributions to improve health care in these communities, it was easy to imagine how much more needed to be done for so many people in South Sudan and around the world.



Figure 1. The author caring for a malnourished child in the MSF feeding center, Akeum, South Sudan, 2002 (Credit: Deborah Van Dyke)



Figure 2. Health worker seeing mother and child at Akeum 2002 (Credit: Deborah Van Dyke)

In addition to South Sudan, I worked in several other countries with MSF and other international NGOs – a total of 14 missions over a span of two decades. Training, mentoring, and working side-by-side with health workers gave me the opportunity to better understand the realities health workers face when providing care in the developing world. Most had limited training and almost no opportunity to find answers to their questions in a book, consult with a more

experienced colleague, or refer to a higher-level facility. Beyond their initial schooling, refresher training programs were often not available to these providers. I realized that health workers lack of ready access to practical clinical information significantly limited their ability to provide effective health care.

A more efficient way to train health workers at scale was needed.

DEVELOPMENT OF VIDEOS

On two occasions – in South Sudan and Afghanistan – I used a few videos to teach health workers. Their response to those videos was truly remarkable. They

Citation: Van Dyke. “How-to” Teaching Videos – inspired by work in South Sudan. *South Sudan Medical Journal* 2022;15(3):114-115 © 2022 The Author (s) **License:** This is an open access article under [CC BY-NC](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/) DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ssmj.v15i3.9>

