Photography & Ethics: Findings from the ‘Field’

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Photography & Ethics

- Process of Production
- Selection
- Circulation / Consumption
Photography & Ethics: Process
Questions to Consider

• Do you have consent?
  • Did you ask before taking the photograph?
  • Do the people in the photograph understand it’s intended use, circulation, and risks?
Anonymity / Confidentiality

Photo by Benoît Almeras (former UNDP)
Questions to Consider

Why is the photograph worth taking?
   For whom?
   Top-down, bottom-up?

What is the narrative? (subject-context-composition relationship)
   Whose narrative is it?
   Is it ethnocentric?
   Would you take this photo in the USA?
   Does it essentialize?
   Is it representative?
   If it shows an exception, why is that worth photographing?
Questions to Consider

What is your role in the image? How do you influence, change, or select what is photographed?
Zelda, aged 59, is a woman of immense resilience. She has been living with disability but still makes her way around Mugunga III in a wheelchair. She lives in the camp with her nieces and longs to go home to Rutshuru territory in North Kivu. (Photo © UNHCR/F. Noy)
The Photographic Landscape and its Visual Fields

How might your image intersect, reflect, or diverge from the local norms of photography?
Gender norms, poses, smiling, etc?
Photo by Réné Lushule
Action / Interaction

Photo by Benoît Almeras (former UNDP)
Visibilité

Photo by Benoît Almeras (former UNDP)
UNHCR urges protection for civilians amid fresh fighting in DR Congo

News Stories, 22 May 2013

KINSHASA, Democratic Republic of the Congo, May 22 (UNHCR) – The UN refugee agency said on Wednesday it was concerned about the latest outbreak of heavy fighting in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and urged all parties to ensure the safety of civilians.

The fresh combat erupted early on Tuesday between government troops and fighters of the M23 movement in DRC's troubled North Kivu province. The two sides first clashed in April last year and subsequent waves of fighting have led to the internal displacement of tens of thousands of people, while more than 60,000 have sought shelter in Uganda and Rwanda.

This is the first major fighting between the two sides since the M23 captured the North Kivu capital, Goma, last November before withdrawing and entering into peace talks in Uganda with the government.
Photography & Ethics: Selection