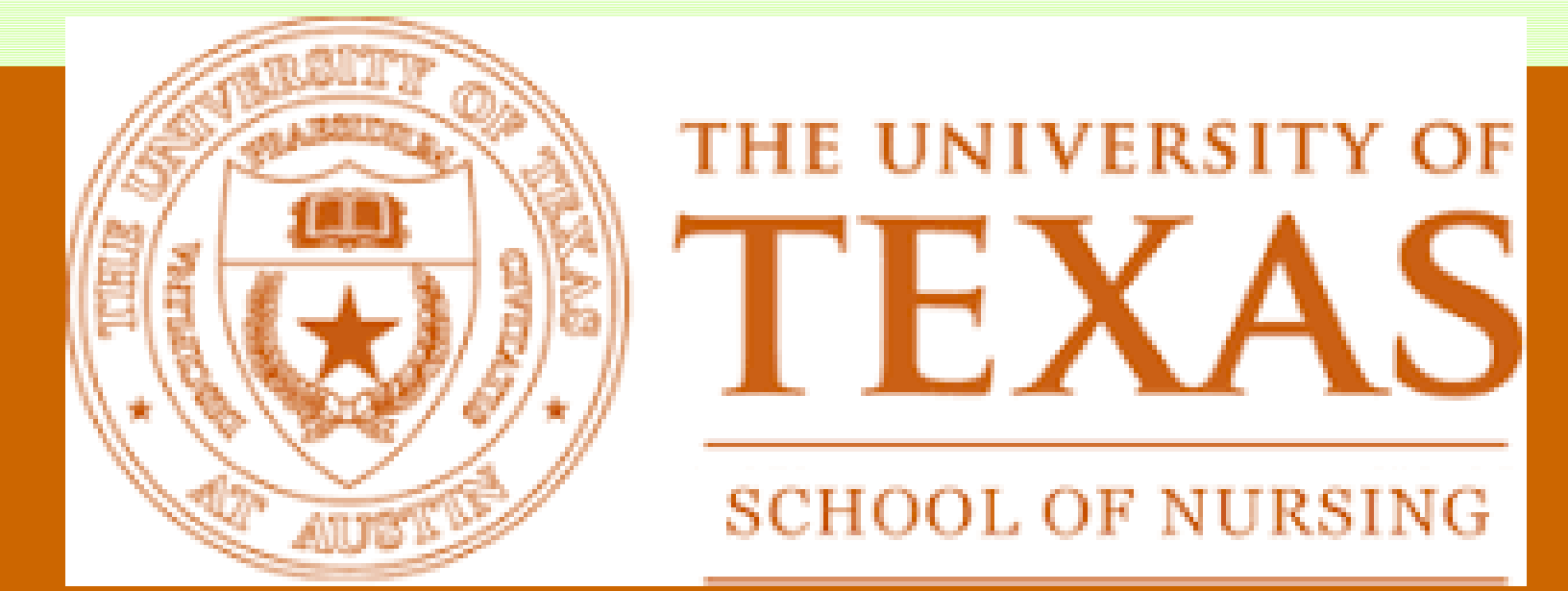


Enlisting Student Nurses in a Lebanese National Campaign to Immunize Children Against Polio



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Introduction

- With Syrian civil war 1 million refugees flooded into Lebanon.
- Poor housed in camps; others in make-shift dwellings (basements, garages, etc.
- Health care catastrophe
- NGOs provided some basic needs
- 2013 polio cases emerged in Syria
- Lebanese Ministry of Health (LMOH) asked for volunteers to help immunize
- 6 nursing students and 1 faculty enlisted from the American University of Beirut
- Project in mountain village
- Clinic staff provided orientation

Aim

- Locate all children in assigned area
- Find those not immunized
- Include Lebanese and Syrians
- Immunize infants & children 7 days to 5 years
- Arrange for follow up

Method

- LMOH mass media advertising
- Participants divided into four teams
- 2-3 persons per team
- Two teams on each side of a street



Polio Public Health Poster in Arabic
“The mother who protects her child protects (defends) her country”



Aramoun Village Mount Lebanon



Syrian Refugees

Method (cont)

- Constant contact by cell phone
- Participants given clearly visible LMOH badges
- Each team carried ice chest
- Each chest with oral polio vaccine
- Each team with clip boards to record information
- Knock on doors
- Explain mission



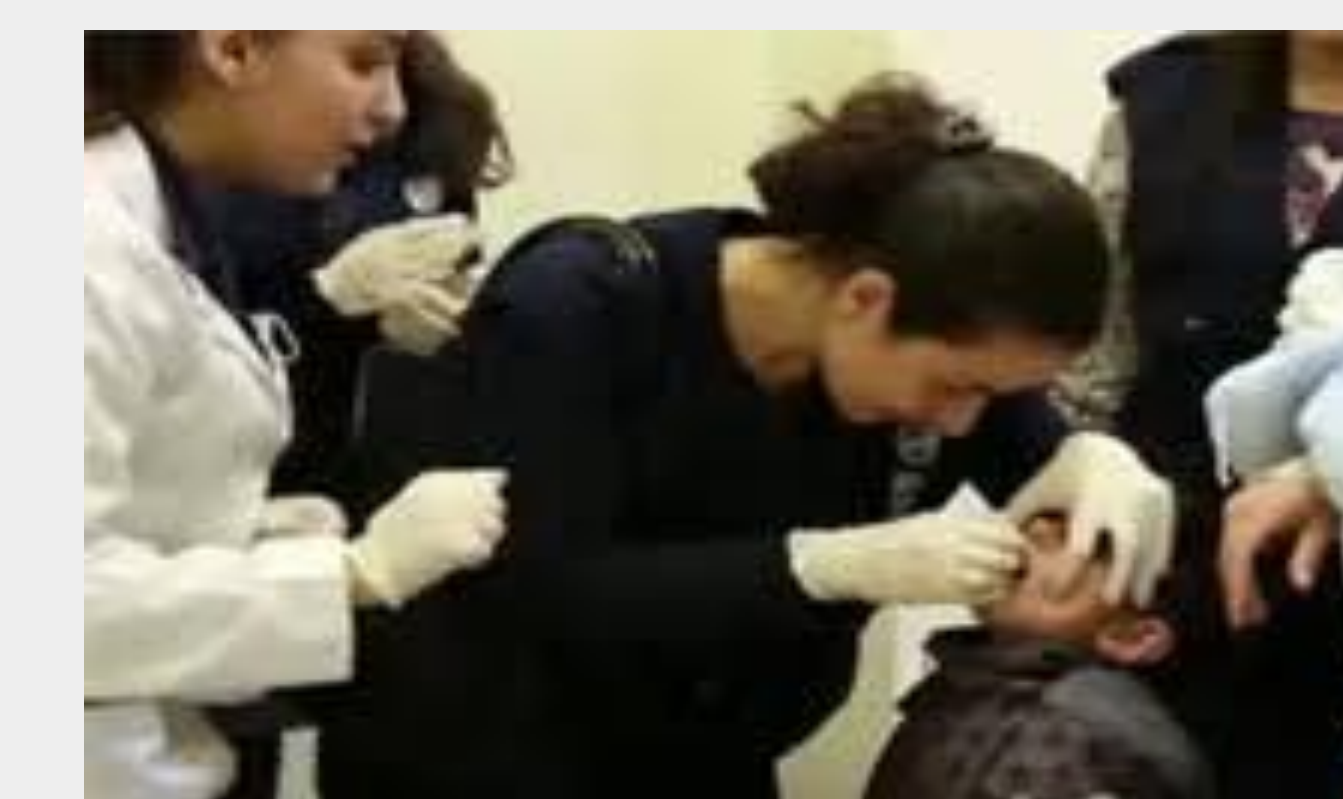
Students



Staff

Challenges

- Difficulty finding children
- Doubters
- Undocumented refugees
- Fear of giving identifying information
- Fear of repercussions
- Preference for care through primary MD
- No electricity, no elevator
- Exhaustion of participants



Lebanese children

Facilitators

- Concierges (building attendants)
- Knew all children in neighbourhood
- Group of young boys led the way
- Village excitement and curiosity



Concierge and boys

Student Conclusion: “Lessons learned were superior to anything we could have read in textbooks”

