Building Authentic Partnerships with Refugee Communities

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United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees:
A refugee is a person who, “owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country.”

Nepali Bhutanese
- In 1800s started to migrate from Nepal to Bhutan
- In 1980s Bhutan’s government enforced “One Nation, One People” policy
- In 1990s Nepali-speaking Bhutanese, the ethnic minority, fled in mass exodus to Nepal
- 100,000 lived in refugee camps until today
- Resettlement to United States began in 2007
  - 3rd largest refugee group being resettled in US
  - Cohesive group with strong social supports

Building a partnership
- Bhutanese Mutual Assistance Association of Tucson (BMAAT)
- University of Arizona College of Public Health
  - Introductions, building trust, sharing culture
  - Discussing and prioritizing health concerns
  - Agreeing on approaches
Defining actions & creating solutions

**BMAAT Family Health Promotion Program**

**Goal:** to increase the Bhutanese community's capacity to address its own health issues, seek prevention & care services appropriately, and ultimately improve family health outcomes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Step 1</td>
<td>Train community health educators</td>
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<tr>
<td>Step 2</td>
<td>Provide 3-module community education program</td>
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<td>Step 3</td>
<td>Host group clinic tours</td>
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<td>Step 4</td>
<td>Facilitate individual clinic appointments</td>
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**Next steps**
- Enable BMAAT community health educators to continue training
- Continue and expand education programming
- Address additional health priorities in the community
- Seek additional funding for BMAAT to build organizational capacity
- Identify the Global Health Institute as home for all refugee-related community-campus partnerships at the University of Arizona College of Public Health

**Program Partners**
- Pima County Health Department Family Planning Program
- Refugee Primary Care Workgroup
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**References**