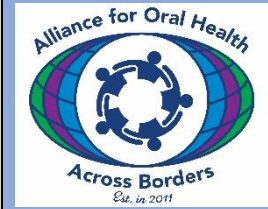


SMILE RWANDA INITIATIVE (Sri)

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INTRODUCTION

Dental caries is a significant community oral health problem worldwide and it is among the most widespread non-communicable diseases affecting 60–90% of school children and the majority of adults.

In 2015, Global burden of disease report presented that dental caries was a prevalent condition from which 560 million children suffered

- This project aims to provide the required information about childhood caries and oral health education in Rwanda.
- Providing required prophylactic materials to preschool and school children together with advocacy for oral health need.

Current problem:

- High prevalence of dental caries in pre and school.
- Oral health education is not put into primary healthcare here in Rwanda.
- Young industry in Rwanda which needs to be addressed into the community
- Negligence of some oral health conditions in children and community myth about oral health Ex: IBYINYO (Tooth bud removal by traditional healers)

OBJECTIVE

The long-term objective of this project is to increase awareness and change of community attitudes on oral health promotion, prevention of diseases and access to different oral and maxillofacial treatment services available in Rwanda previously not known, which will impact the wellbeing of oral health into pre and school children.

OUTCOMES

- ✓ Make healthier food and drink choices and oral hygiene for children
- ✓ Community awareness about oral health, elimination of local myth towards dental/oral health treatments
- ✓ Early prevention and detection of childhood diseases/caries within the community, in Rwanda
- ✓ Enhanced oral health knowledge, skills and Resources especially in Pediatric dentistry.
- ✓ Community health workers are trained to assess children's oral health and refer children with poor oral health to dental services.

TARGET POPULATION

1. Community health workers in Kigali, Musanze(north Rwanda) in remote area.
2. Teachers at schools and Parents for the better of kids.
3. Children by themselves
4. NGOs which works on oral Health promotion and education

METHODOLOGY

- ✓ Trainings and education sessions
- ✓ Community outreaches
- ✓ oral hygiene materials provision
- ✓ Radio talks and social media platform use
- ✓ Working together with different stakeholders and Advocacy



CONCLUSION

In Rwanda more than 60% of the children suffer dental caries and other oral diseases which later affects the dentition and general oral health. This project aims at bringing preventive measures and community awareness which the first approached needed and which is not strong within Rwandan health system especially by reducing earlier childhood caries.

Also, this project is to help children to develop personal skills, provides knowledge about oral health and promotes positive attitudes and healthy behaviors.