

Refugees and IDPs

Oral Health Matters



Figure 1:
Providing the donated gifts and fluoride varnish application to the refugees inside the tents of the camp



Figure 2:
Dental check-ups

Introduction :

Almost 16 million people have been reported to have been displaced from Iraq and Syria as a result of sectarian violence and civil war since 2011. Approximately 2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees have fled their home towns and countries to seek refuge in Iraqi Kurdistan as a result of Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) attacks. One in every four persons in Iraqi Kurdistan is a IDPs or refugee (1).

In the research, the refugee populations had a higher burden of oral illnesses and restricted access to oral health care than even the most disadvantaged communities in the host nations. Few approaches for improving oral health have been undertaken; nonetheless, some have shown promising results (2).

In Target :

Children of refugee camps in Duhok (3).
Number of children served : 400

Objectives :

- Encourage oral hygiene awareness and oral health promotion
- Perform dental check-ups followed by further dental care when necessary
- Apply fluoride varnish
- Provide the children with toothbrushes and toothpastes

Methodology

Multiple Oral hygiene campaigns in the camp provided with Oral hygiene awareness, Dental Education, motivation, dental Check-ups, Fluoride Varnish application and dentifrices and toothpaste as gifts.

Outcomes

- By teaching them the implications of deteriorating oral hygiene, they are less likely to ignore them in the future and seek regular dental check-ups and treatment on their own.
- Dental Education was provided, which resulted in their paying more attention to their dental health and being more aware of preserving good oral hygiene.
- Further Dental Care was provided as needed.
- Fluoride applications increased their resistance to tooth decay.
- The Children had their own toothpastes and toothbrushes.

Conclusion

As a team we can clearly see that all camp residents and especially the children lack basic dental education and the motivation to perform the simple personal hygiene tasks that will help them live a healthier life. We could readily see the need of our services so we gave this camp multiple visits to cover as many people as we could. It is crucial to see how these needs are neglected.



Figure 3: Proper tooth brushing techniques and motivation

Aws Mahmood Abdal
Dental Student at
UoD / College of Dentistry
Kurdistan , Iraq

References and
Project Pictures :

