

HEALTHY MOUTH BETTER SMILE PROJECT

“a refugee based community project”

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INTRODUCTION

- Dental caries is among the most common chronic diseases of children world wide
- Prevalence in less developed countries and among the disadvantaged groups in the developed countries, has been reported to be as high 70%
- Refugees are among the vulnerable and low socio economic status families in Rwanda, which are easily affected by dental caries as the awareness related to oral health is still low

METHODOLOGY

- ❖ PHASE 1: Review of available information at the dental department serving patients of Kiziba Refugee camp. This includes obtaining SECONDARY DATA FROM KIZIBA REFUGEE CAMP.
- ❖ PHASE 2: ORAL HEALTH EDUCATION AND SCREENING
This will be Field work that will involve
 - Oral health education
 - Oral hygiene behavior
 - Diet
 - Dental check up
 - Oral screening
 - Census after oral screening for number of patients
 - Toothpaste and toothbrush provision to the oral health educated and screened kids
- ❖ PHASE 3: ADVOCACY
From the findings of Phase 1 and 2. We shall Refer patients accordingly for further treatment and initiate advocacy for appropriate treatment

THE PROBLEM STATEMENT

- The socio-economic difficulties and limited public awareness make it difficult to improve oral health among refugees.
- High prevalence of dental caries among refugee children between age of 4 to 13 years in kiziba camp.
- lack of resources to people like fluoridated toothpaste, able to change toothbrush at least once per three months.
- In rural areas such as this where the refugee camp is located, people tend not to visit a dentist for regular check-up and even ignore mild toothache; they visit a dentist only when they have severe symptoms

RESULTS

- PHASE 1
In Kiziba refugee camp,
 - Review of dental department the annual report of patients received in 2022 shows that all patients consulted in dental service were complaining problem of dental caries.
 - Both children and adults get same treatment which is extraction.
 - Children were in age range of 4 to 13 years old
 - The total number of children received in 10 months' record from January to October were 323
 - Which mean On 2 working days at health center present in kiziba camp 4 to 6 children get teeth extracted because of dental caries

- PHASE 2 AND PHASE 3 RESULTS ARE PENDING.

OBJECTIVES

- To provide basic and fundamental oral health education to the children of Kiziba refugee camp
- To find out the oral health abnormalities and give a recommendation for treatment to the children of Kiziba refugee camp
- To advocate for more dental treatment for the children of Kiziba refugee camp

PARTNERS

- UNHCR Rwanda
- UR (University of Rwanda) specifically in school of dentistry
- AHA (Africa Humanitarian Action)
- Alliance for Oral Health Across Borders & STUDENT LEADERSHIP IN GLOBAL ORAL HEALTH
- Other NGOs supporting oral health

CONCLUSION

- “Healthy mouth better smile project” aims to raise awareness regarding to oral health in refugee population in Rwanda, especially in school going children (nursery and primary) of Kiziba refugee camp
- In addition, to re-enforce and advocate for refugees to promote oral health which is neglected in refugee camps by health partners in refugee camps.
- To expand this project for the benefit of other refugee camps.

REFERENCES

