



## UMURAVA PROJECT.

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### Introduction

As for developing countries, oral diseases constitute an important burden. Data from The Rwanda Health Management Information System (R-HMIS) published in 2016 showed the tooth and periodontal diseases are among the top ten causes of morbidity in health facilities for all ages. Inadequate integration of oral health in the health system, associated with insufficiency in training, result in ineffective oral health services delivery.

In Rwanda, the first national oral health survey indicates that: 64.9% of the participants in the survey had experienced dental caries while 54.3% of them were untreated. Tooth and gum diseases rank 6<sup>th</sup> (6.2%)-in the top ten causes of morbidity among under 5 children, 4<sup>th</sup> (4.2%) among people over 5 years and adults. As results of mentioned above, I am happy to extend basic oral health services to vulnerable population with community health workers and children caretakers, as the primary health care delivery.

In Rwanda there is a shortage of dental services due to insufficient number of oral health practitioners especially in rural areas and those who are available they are not willing to go to work in rural areas due to insufficient materials.

There is not much information about oral health in Rwanda due to few oral health researches

My project would like to work in 4 districts (Kayonza, Gatsibo, Kirehe and Ngoma of Eastern province of the country, the total population of the

Eastern province is 2.6 million, this project is aiming to reach 10% of the population, I choose this eastern Province thought oral health is still a burden to the country but the Eastern province is much more with oral health burden than other provinces.

Since 2007 Rwanda has implemented a **national community health workers** program to extend basic health services to vulnerable people, and this has shown a remarkable outcome in the health system of Rwanda.

Community health workers also amplify the voice of the community to the medical establishment by alarming doctors, nurses, and other health professionals about the needs and conditions in the community that can affect health.

Typically, community health workers play a significant role in early prevention, assurance and providing basic treatment of different diseases that would affect individuals while they are not taken into consideration before.

They fill an important gap in management of nutrition problems, mental health issues, family planning and different chronic diseases, etc.

Extending basic oral health services to vulnerable people such as; school aged children, adolescents, and even the adults especially in the remote places would be a good strategy to eradicate/ minimize existing high prevalence of oral diseases

### Objectives

The purpose for this study is to:

- ✚ To promote oral health and prevention oral diseases
- ✚ Decentralization of Dental services to the remote community
- ✚ Empowering people with knowledge and education regarded oral diseases prevention.

### Methodology

The project duration is one year, Thorough training of 1 month to the 600 community health workers and health center nurses by dental therapist or dental

surgeon; this will provide information and practical experience that will help them to give back the skills to the community. The program will be divided into 8 weeks, where the first 4 weeks will be working with primary schools where the trained community health workers and nurses will provide oral health education, screening and fluoride varnish application. The 2<sup>nd</sup> four weeks will be the referral of the screened participants who need treatment to the district hospital for treatment.

### Results

By the end of this project the oral health diseases burden in the selected district

- ✚ Will be reduced by 15%
- ✚ Availability of infrastructure at district hospitals in Eastern province
- ✚ Equipped knowledge about oral health to the community health workers and selected nurse
- ✚ Oral health improvement to the population of eastern province.

### Conclusion

This project will,

- ✚ minimize the cost spent by the government on oral diseases,
- ✚ prevent citizens for seeking traditional healers
- ✚ improve oral health promotion and prevention of oral diseases

Therefore, I will need your support in:

1. Guidance for the implementation of the project
2. Connecting to NGOs, private companies, dental health provisional that may provide support to the project to amplify its social impact

