

Refugees and IDPs Oral Health Matters



Figure 2: Providing the donated gifts and fluoride varnish application to the refugees inside the tents of the camp



Figure 1: Refugee camps map in Duhok city



Figure 3: Dental check-ups

Introduction :

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 (1). The refugee populations has a higher burden of oral illnesses and limited access to oral health care than even the most disadvantaged communities in the host nations (2).

Population :

n=1200 Children in refugee camps in Duhok, Kurdistan Region, Iraq (3).

Objectives :

- Promote oral hygiene and oral health awareness.
- Conduct dental screenings and subsequent care as needed.
- Provide fluoride treatments.
- Distribute toothbrushes and toothpastes to children along with oral health education.

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

1. Fluoride Treatments were administered to n=1,200 children.
2. Personal oral hygiene supplies were distributed to n=1,200 children.
3. Providing dental education resulted in a 75% rise in oral health consciousness and improved hygiene practices.
4. An enhanced understanding of oral hygiene consequences led to a 63% increase in the likelihood of future self-initiated dental screenings and treatments.

- **Note :** The outcomes reported here reflect the context of (IDPs), where variability in access to care and transient living conditions may affect the consistency and reliability of outcome reporting. This factor is crucial in interpreting the results and planning future interventions.

Conclusion

Our team observed a pronounced deficiency in basic dental knowledge and motivation for personal hygiene practices among camp residents, particularly children. This underscored the critical demand for our services, leading to multiple visits to reach as many individuals as possible. The neglect of these fundamental health needs highlights the importance of continued engagement and support.



Figure 4: Proper tooth brushing techniques and motivation

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References and
Project Pictures