

School Oral Health Programme

Catholic Primary School Mbelem, Nkwen



Background

Conditions for Cameroon's children have deteriorated in recent years. Infant and under five mortality rates in 2005 were actually higher than their 1990 levels. Maternal mortality is alarmingly high.

The idea of daily brushing and regular dental care is not widely understood in Cameroon. Dental care when it is sought is prohibitively expensive for most of the population. Many people therefore turn to alternative treatments, such as street dentists, which often complicate their oral health problems rather than cure them.

Cameroon Schools Programme

Following on from the success of the Schools Oral Health Programme that has been running in Uganda Dentaid is now setting up a similar project in Cameroon. The programme will be run in partnership with the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Board, with whom Dentaid has had a successful long term working relationship. The programme will begin in five primary schools and initially incorporate 2000 children.

On visiting some of the schools in Cameroon the levels of decay and poor oral hygiene were quite shocking. This affects the overall general well-being of the children and significantly impacts on their ability to learn at school.

The new programme in Cameroon will involve screening and on-site treatment of all children by indigenous oral health workers using portable equipment, referring more complicated cases to the local dental clinic which was previously supplied by Dentaid. As well as oral health education, the children will also receive daily supervised tooth brushing

Sponsor of the Catholic Primary School, Mbelem, Nkwen This school has 250 pupils. It is located in a rural area on the outskirts of Bamenda and nearly all the pupils are from low income farming families.



The cost of sponsoring the Catholic Primary School, Mbelem, Nkwen is £1000 for a year.

If you are interested in sponsoring this school contact Nicky at Dentaid on 01794 324249 or nicky@dentaid.org.