

# Infant Oral Mutilation (IOM)

For many years this disturbing cultural practice has been observed in many countries in Africa. This is due to the mistaken belief that an infant's unerupted baby teeth are "worms" which cause illness. Babies and young children are having their baby teeth deliberately removed from under their gums. This can lead to permanent deformation of adult teeth and often to serious illness and death of the infant.

Combating IOM is one of Dentaids priorities over the next few years. We have embarked on a process intended to bring the practice of IOM into the forefront of public awareness and end the needless pain and suffering that it causes. To this end, Dentaids has brought together an "IOM Action Group" to focus on implementing a much needed strategy to deal with the very real problem of IOM.

**If you are interested in getting involved there are several ways in which Dentaids needs your help. Please tick any of the actions below.**

Name.....

Address.....

E-mail.....Phone.....

- Volunteering to take part in research and education initiatives in IOM affected countries.
- Carrying out education initiatives in outreach programmes, community centres and schools in IOM affected countries.
- An elective study into IOM.
- Carrying out further UK based IOM related research, perhaps as part of an undergraduate or Masters course.
- Providing financial support to enable the Action Group to take the project forward.

Please return this form to  
IOM Action Group, Dentaids, Giles Lane, Landford, Salisbury SP5 2BG  
Registered Charity No. 1075826