

Dentaid's Ugandan Schools Oral Health Programme needs Sponsors!

Oral health charity Dentaid, is asking the dental community to sponsor a school oral health programme and help them to continue improving the oral health of thousands of school children in Uganda. The pioneering programme, which has already reached over 5000 children in 6 schools in Kabale region of Uganda, provides the schools with:

- ❖ Oral screening and on-site treatment of all children by indigenous oral health workers using portable equipment, referring more complicated cases to the Rugurama Health Centre in Kabale.
- ❖ Oral health education using culturally appropriate visual aids supplied by Dentaid
- ❖ Daily toothbrushing with fluoride toothpaste

Dentaid is now expanding the programme to include a further 9 schools in the region and is asking dental practices, laboratories and companies to support the projects and sponsor a whole school for just £800. In return for this generous donation each sponsor will receive:

- ❖ A letter from the head teacher of the school
- ❖ Background information on the school and the district
- ❖ Photographs of the school
- ❖ Pictures of the oral health programme being implemented
- ❖ Acknowledgement of their support on the Dentaid website.

Luke Wordley, Chief Executive at Dentaid commented, *"The schools programme in Uganda has been a runaway success. In fact it has proved so popular in the Kabale region that the schools taking part have actually found their enrolment of pupils increasing because of the programme. While this is an incredible endorsement of the value of the programme to the local community, inequality between schools is not something we wanted to achieve and we are now desperate to expand the programme to other schools in the area."*

Dentaid already has its first sponsor, Exeter Orthodontic Practice, who responded immediately on hearing about the programme and is sponsoring two schools. Dr Jon Machell commented, *"We are delighted to support such a worthwhile cause. Dentaid has highlighted an area in which we can really make a difference."*

The background - In the UK, children are fortunate enough to receive quality dental treatment and nearly all have the means to brush their teeth twice daily with fluoride toothpaste.

In Uganda, children are not quite so lucky. Only a small proportion of children ever see a dentist, most of whom are poorly equipped and only present in the main towns. More seriously, few families can afford toothbrushes and fluoride toothpaste, thus not benefiting from their preventive benefits. As a result, untreated dental disease is commonplace causing pain, low self-esteem and occasionally life-threatening infections.

In partnership with Dentaid, Rugurama Health Centre – a not-for-profit church hospital – based in Kabale in SW Uganda, has been at the forefront of improving oral health services in the region. The programme has been supervised by Dr Chris Barton, a Cornish dentist, and his wife Polly.

If you would like more information on sponsoring a school, please contact Nicky Triance, on 01794 324249 or email nicky@dentaid.org. We will be able to provide you with illustrated profiles from which to choose your school.
