



ORAL HEALTH SOLUTIONS ORGANIZATION

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Oral Health Solutions Organization (OHSO) was designed and established to make a difference in this country and to make an impact with people's lives as far as health is concerned, all to be done through oral health promotion and advocacy agenda. OHSO wants people especially children and adolescents, including pregnant women to live in a better situation – health-wise than their predecessors. In this context, there is only one way to do that – by raising awareness of many people as possible about the importance of oral health to general health and the bi-directional relationship between oral diseases and four major non-communicable diseases (NCDs), which are cardiovascular disease, cancer, chronic respiratory disease and diabetes.

For it is known that nobody can claim to be healthy without good oral health. OHSO being a local non-governmental organization that emanated from the home grown solution concept, and having compassion for underserved communities across the country, sees the realistic way to meet oral health needs of the public is through OHSO's core values. The core values of OHSO entail respect of each person, recognizing that patient customers have value, integrity - acting with high moral and professional principles, doing "the right thing", being grateful for each other, for the sake of patients, for work, for abilities, and showing others appreciation.

With financial support from donors, this committed organization, is able to have unique impact on the nation, making a contribution unlike any other organization. OHSO can promote general health, equip/empower people with knowledge and skills, provide preventative mobile dentistry, which gives the best chance for a beautiful smile and long-lasting oral health, and above all can increase oral health literacy, an essential component to attain universal health coverage for all citizens of Rwanda.

ACTIVITIES OF ORAL HEALTH SOLUTIONS ORGANISATION DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2023.

In the month of April 2023, Oral Health Solutions Organization (OHSO) carried out three outreach activities in two primary schools located in Kabuga Sector, Gasabo District. The schools that benefited from the activities are: Groupe Scolaire Kabuga Catholique and APAER's primary school called Morning Star Christian Academy. Specific activities performed involved oral health education and distribution of toothpaste (Whitident) and toothbrushes, which were donated by a potential partner - the CHEMICOTEX Rwanda.

So far, OHSO has managed to distribute 2018 toothbrushes and 902 toothpastes at Groupe Scolaire Kabuga Catholique, and 472 toothbrushes, and 472 toothpastes at Morning Star, making a total of 1374 items of oral hygiene materials distributed among students, teachers and supporting staff.

Additionally, at Morning Star Christian Academy and at Groupe Scolaire Kabuga Catholique, a rapid simple oral health screening of 128 students was done to identify their treatment needs. To inform more about oral hygiene principles, at every school where OHSO conducted outreach activities, a poster with instructions on how to maintain a good oral health was left behind or given to school administration to be installed on walls where students and teachers can be able to read oral health instructions on a daily basis.

Due to school preset schedules and ongoing school activities, inconveniences do arise as the only time the schools can spare for our activities is either Wednesday or Friday afternoon. This has caused some challenges as oral health personnel cannot meet students and teaching staff as they wish. With donation of oral hygiene materials from CHEMICOTEX Rwanda, OHSO shall continue to avail them to beneficiaries in various primary schools, not only in Gasabo District but also in other district across the country. Raising awareness of Rwandan population on the importance of oral health and how they can prevent oral diseases is priority. The organization shall keep informing/enlightening school children on the relationship between oral diseases and non-communicable diseases which are currently captivating the attention of the world. Prevention is better than cure! Together we can make difference.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE PICTURES TAKEN AT THE OUTREACH SITES

AT APAER (MORNING STAR)

Morning Star is an extension of APAER Secondary School. It has Pre- primary (nursery) and Primary Schools. At that school, OHSO professionals educated pupils, gave them tooth brushes and fluoride toothpaste (Whitenedent), also screened 100 pupils.





Children were very attentive and participative. They asked questions for clarity and more understanding.





Children were really happy to get the oral hygiene materials. It was also a pleasure for us to participate in this noble action.



Marie José Mujawamariya, the Headmistress and Anna Marie, holding the poster with oral hygiene instructions.



Even though it was too late, we managed to do oral health screening for 100 children.

At GS KABUGA CATHOLIQUE



The child was really satisfied to get oral hygiene materials



The teachers helped us to maintain discipline while distributing the items. See how the children were really happy



The Legal Representative of OHSO helped to bring the items to the schools. Here, it was at GS Kabuga Catholique.



The Director of GS Kabuga Catholique (the second from the right), with the whole team. One of the dental therapists working at IRAMIRO Dental Clinic at Kabuga (the second from the left), came to help OHSO members in Oral Health Education and Distribution of oral hygiene materials. On that day, 28th April 2023, we only served primary school pupils.

With your support, our organization would be able to accomplish its goals step by step. We are raising the awareness of children and teachers and thus, reaching the whole community.

If you have at heart to fight Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) by helping the population to maintain their oral health, please contact Anne Marie UWITONZE, (+250) 788833272) or

RWEMA Frank (0788428963) for a possible partnership. Your donation, even so small would be warmly welcome. It can help us to get didactic materials such as teaching models, and big brushes in the near future since now we are borrowing what we use. We would also like to publish and distribute some booklets with oral hygiene instructions, to pass information through media settings, such as series of educational movies on radios and televisions, as well as other health teaching information platforms.

We cannot do it without you, kindly support.

Make sure to visit us online at orohso.org to find out about upcoming events! Please get in touch if you have any questions or suggestions.

Sincerely



RWEMA FRANK

OHSO Legal Representative



Anne Marie UWITONZE

OHSO Executive Secretary