

# **OUTREACH REPORT FROM TWO DAY OUTREACHES IN IYOLWA AND KIYEYI IN NABUYOGA TOWN COUNCIL**

## **Background**

These two outreaches were carried out in the two locations because of the great need for dental services in those areas. The area has a large population of about 30,000 but with meaningful dental services available at least 31 Kilometres away. Dentaaid had supported or carried out some outreach visits here before but covering only a small percentage of the population.

The aim of these outreaches was to reach out to these in need communities to create awareness, offer access to oral urgent treatment and to evaluate the impact of the previous outreaches. The outreaches were carried out in the local health centres of Iyolwa and Kiyeyi on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2020.

## **Achievement of Objectives**

Meetings were held with the health centres and village mobilizers were then tasked to inform people prior to the visits. Announcements were also made with megaphones on that same day. These ensured that we received both patients who were new and those we had seen before in the previous visits.

## **Activities**

The activities of the days had oral health education, screening and treatment of common dental diseases. The following cases were seen:

At Iyolwa, there were twenty two (22) extractions, Ten (10) fillings, five (5) scaling and Ten (10) others. Giving a sub total of Forty seven (47). Many more who were not patients received health educations and oral health awareness information.

In Kiyeyi there were 24 extractions, Ten (10) fillings, Three (3) scaling, and Fifteen (15) others. A further 20 or more received oral health information awareness information.

Giving a sub-total of Fifty two (52) patients seen at Kiyeyi and over twenty others who received oral health awareness information.

The total of patients seen in the two outreaches is Ninety nine (99) plus over 40 who were not patients but received oral health awareness information.

Of these some were people who had been seen before who were so grateful for this service. Notable among these was a lady whom we had seen in a previous visit. She came before daybreak just to make sure she didn't miss out. Some people travelled for miles to come and get this service. The appreciation of the people underlined the importance of this service.

Most of the cases required extractions indicating the need for oral urgent treatment and underlining the lack of access to dental services that many of these people face. In some cases they were just retained roots while others were grossly carious teeth. The ones that could be filled were filled and in a small percentage they were referred in case the cavities required a drill. In such cases they were referred to the nearest hospital which is 31 Kilometres away. Only open cavities without the need for drilling could be filled due to absence of a drill on site.

## **Challenges**

The Covid 19 Pandemic continues to hinder free movements and this therefore mobilization. Some people in all likelihood did not turn up because of precautions they are taking to avoid as much contact as possible. Meanwhile we took all the necessary precautions such as hand washing, sanitizing and social distancing, and yet even with those precautions some people may not feel free to come for the services. The other related challenge is that everything has become a little more difficult including the cost and difficulty of transportation. This presented a challenge as it hindered some people from turning up and even the dental team faced this challenge.

## **Recommendations**

The promotion of oral health and especially preventive dentistry along with restoration should be an important part of the outreach since it encourages health seeking and improves the health status of the population.

Working together with the local dentists should be better planned so that it results into skills transfer that will make outreaches more sustainable as those local dentists will continue to carry out some form of outreaches even in the absence of a dentaid Associate.

**Joseph E. Opendi**

**Dentaid Associate**



**One of the patients at Iyolwa Health Centre on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2020**



One of the patients at Kiyeyi Health Centre on 31st December 2020



Patients waiting at the two Health Centres