

FDI PHC Activities - 2023 Report

PROJECT - Educational module for non-oral health professionals

Background

Most oral diseases are preventable by simple, evidence-based interventions. The engagement of different Health Care Professionals (HCPs) in promoting oral health will expand access to oral healthcare, especially in marginalized and underserved populations. In various healthcare settings, HCPs are confronted with oral health issues that, most of the time, they haven't been trained to manage. The developed resource can help tackle this gap. Orienting HCPs to oral health also promotes effective interprofessional collaboration with a common risk factor approach as a basis for addressing the health and well-being of patients. Recent global initiatives indicate that interventions to counter non-communicable diseases are ideal opportunities to promote better oral health based on the common risk approach. The issue of the low density of dentists in many parts of the world is well known. To expand access to oral health and to achieve the goal of affordable and accessible healthcare for all there is a need to engage HCPs for the prevention and control of oral diseases. This project aims to produce educational materials for HCPs that provide basic oral health information and help build oral healthcare skills to enable them to include essential oral healthcare services in their routine work.

PROJECT - Oral Health for an Ageing Population

Background

The Oral Health for an Ageing Population project (OHAP) was launched in 2015 to strengthen the role of the oral health community in achieving healthy longevity. The project advocates for oral health challenges to be addressed in health promotion strategies and health policies for ageing populations. OHAP aims to ensure that people not only live longer lives but healthier ones too, free of oral diseases. Phase II of the project started in 2021 and is expected to end in 2024, focusing on clinical issues including oral function decline in the elderly.

PROJECT - Refugee Oral Health Promotion and Care

Background

To promote oral health for vulnerable populations, the Public Health Committee has developed materials and generated guidance information for refugees and people on the move in the past few years. Previously, the PHC collected data from FDI members to understand the level of knowledge and involvement in promoting oral health for the refugee population. An advocacy guide was developed to support National Dental Associations (NDAs) to produce promotional strategies.

PROJECT - Talk to a Dentist

Background

Unmet oral health care needs are an important challenge globally. This is the result of several factors, including poor availability of care in remote areas and the cost of accessing oral health care. In areas where workforce shortages are at their most acute, we need to help those who cannot easily see a dentist to access the care they need. The "Talk to a Dentist" programme is building on the achievements and lessons learned from the Brush Day and Night and WOHD in-country activities run in previous years. FDI offers guidance and funding to NDAs who organize the provision of dental care to communities with limited access. In 2022, the project saw 400,000 people receive treatment for oral diseases, 300,000 dental health education lessons delivered, 40,000 train-the-trainer sessions delivered, and 60,000 topical fluoride applications.

PROJECT - Tobacco Cessation

Background

Since 2020, the PHC has been promoting tobacco cessation in the oral health community. The scientific review to inform oral health professionals laid the foundations for developing recommendations for dentists to help their patients modify their behaviour and cease tobacco use, such as “Tobacco cessation guidance for oral health professionals”. The recommendations are coupled with educational animated videos, and an FDI Fact sheet “The Effects of E-cigarettes on Oral Health”. A policy statement was developed on “The role of oral health practitioners in tobacco cessation”. Related dissemination strategies and capacity-building workshops on tobacco cessation were designed and implemented.

PROJECT - World Dental Development Fund

Background

The World Dental Development Fund (WDDF) aims to support country-level efforts to improve oral health globally, primarily through establishing innovative prevention and access programmes in disadvantaged populations. The WDDF projects reflect the core values and principles of FDI. FDI strongly encourages National Dental Associations to positively impact oral health.