

## National Oral Health Plans

Implementation Barriers

**KENYA** 

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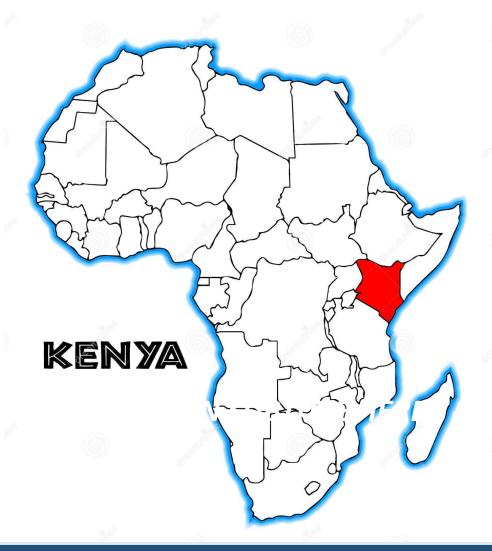
President

Kenya Dental Assocaition





### Kenya



Population 52 Million

Dentists 1506

Dental universities 2

National Dental Associations 1

Policy documents

National Oral Health Policy

National Oral Health Strategic Plan

National Oral Health Survey



### Policy and Governance Challenges

- •Low prioritization of oral health: Oral health often takes a back seat compared to other health issues like infectious diseases.
- •Weak coordination: Lack of effective collaboration between different stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and private sector.
- •Limited data and research: Insufficient evidence-based information to inform policy decisions and program implementation.
- Devolution of health- Over 47 county governments
- •Community Health promoters: Introduction of CHPs that are yet to be trained on oral health means suspicion index awareness of disease conditions is low or non existent.



### Socioeconomic and Cultural Factors

- •Inequality in access to care: Disparities in oral health services between urban and rural areas, and between different socioeconomic groups.
- •Low oral health literacy: Limited public awareness about the importance of oral health and preventive measures.
- •Cultural beliefs and practices: Some cultural practices and beliefs hinder oral health promotion and disease prevention.



#### **Resource Constraints**

- •Financial limitations: Insufficient budgetary allocation for oral health programs.
- •Human resource shortage: Lack of qualified dental professionals, only 1506 dentist in the country
- •Infrastructure deficit: Inadequate dental facilities and equipment, particularly in underserved regions.



### Systemic Issues

- •Weak referral systems: Challenges in referring patients between primary, secondary, and tertiary levels of care.
- •Supply chain disruptions: Difficulties in ensuring consistent availability of essential oral health supplies and medications.
- •Monitoring and evaluation weaknesses: Inadequate systems to track progress and measure impact of interventions.
- •High out-of-pocket expenses for oral health care
- Limited integration of oral health into primary healthcare

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