

National Oral Health Plans

Implementation Barriers

KENYA

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Kenya
Dental
Association

Kenya



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|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 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

THE END



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