



## END OF YEAR REPORT ORAL HEALTH PROJECT IN GHANA, 2018

**Target beneficiaries reached for the year 2018: 61,816 children**

### Introduction

For the past five (5) years, the Oral Health project has persistently educated children and created awareness on health dangers associated with poor oral care. The project expanded its initial target beneficiary population from 16,000 children in 2013 to 208,768 children in 2018. This tremendous increase in beneficiary population is an indication that the project is on course and it is equipping more and more children with good oral care practices.

### Our Success Story, 2018

During the year 2018, community campaigns have been carried out in three (3) regions of Ghana namely; Volta, Eastern and Greater Accra Regions. A total of 61,816 children in 271 public deprived schools have been reached within the year.

The first outreach campaign kicked off from January to March and was held in Volta region, South Tongu District to be precise. During this campaign, 17,828 children from 77 schools benefited. The second campaign took place in May and June in Fanteakwa District of Eastern Region covering 91 schools with a beneficiary population of 19,426. In the months of September and October, the third campaign was held again in Eastern Region but in Akim East District. A total of 20,882 children in 93 schools participated in the exercise. The final campaign for the year was rolled out in November in Chokor a deprived community in Accra Metropolis of Greater Accra Region, recording 3,680 beneficiaries in 10 public schools.



The table below provides summary of the outreach campaigns in 2018.

DURATION	LOCATION	NO. OF SCHOOLS	BENEFICIARIES
January-March 2018	South Tongu District-Volta Region	77	17,828
May/June 2018	Fanteakwa District-Eastern Region	91	19,426
September/October 2018	East Akim District -Eastern Region	93	20,882
November 2018	Accra Metropolis- Greater Accra Region	10	3,680
<b>Total</b>		<b>271</b>	<b>61,816</b>

### Observations/Lessons

For most of the communities visited in 2018, poverty is one of the major factors contributing to poor oral care among children. Parents/caregivers are unable to access and regularly provide dental care materials for their children. Some of the dental cases found in the children could be associated to deficiency in nutrition necessary for formation and development of healthy teeth.

Some parents/caregivers are lax about training their wards to develop good dental care habits from infancy and this is a challenge to fighting poor dental care.

It observed during implementation of the project that, when children are afforded an opportunity and support, they can facilitate accurate oral health information transfer amongst themselves. They are an efficient and effective mode of information dissemination among their peers.

Even though empowerment of families is not part of the project, it is prerequisite to ensure that families are able to afford to buy tooth brushes and paste for their children at all times. It is therefore prudent that SOS CV Ghana collaborates with relevant state agencies and NGOs that are into poverty alleviation to reduce poverty and vulnerability among families.



## Target for 2019

The target for 2019 is to reach out to 66,000 children, thus a ten percent increase of 2018 target of 60,000 children. The project will be extended to remote communities in three regions in Ghana; Ashanti, Greater Accra and Central. Special efforts would be made to involve more parents/caregivers in the project since their adoption of good oral care would greatly contribute to sustainability of the project.

The project would also launch a campaign in Ghana to celebrate the Oral Health Day to create awareness of the issues around oral health among children in deprived communities and the importance of oral hygiene in the development of children.

The team intends developing partnerships with some local organizations to collaborate with them in order to intensify the campaign against poor dental care.

## Conclusion

The Oral Health Team here in Ghana is grateful for your continuous support towards promoting good dental care in Ghana over the years. Counting on the success of the project so far, the team is committed to extending the project to more deprived communities. We look forward again to your unwavering support in 2019.

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