



# A HAPPY MOUTH IS... A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT

PROMOTE ACCESS TO  
ORAL CARE FOR REFUGEES

#WOHD24  
#HappyMouth



[worldoralhealthday.org](http://worldoralhealthday.org)

# A HAPPY MOUTH IS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT

Refugees are among the most vulnerable groups worldwide. They have limited access to oral health education, oral disease prevention and therapeutic dental care. What's more, language barriers can negatively impact refugees' health literacy. A unified approach is critical to create an enabling environment for action that leaves no-one behind.



## WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Depending on the local context and needs, a range of actions proposed below could contribute to improving access to oral healthcare for refugees.



**Educate families and individuals** about how oral health is an important part of general health by providing multi-lingual oral health education videos or printed materials.



**Provide fluoridated toothpastes** and other professional fluoride therapies as part of oral disease prevention activities.



**Coordinate regular dental visits** by allocating the necessary resources such as transportation, babysitting, translation, and service providers who are culturally competent.



**Train personnel**, from refugee camps where relevant, to implement person-to-person communication techniques, such as motivational interviewing.



**Increase awareness about the importance of self-care** and healthy dietary habits and try to make healthy food choices and self-care hygiene products available.

