

A HAPPY MOUTH IS... a basic human right

RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT
NOMA TO SAVE LIVES



“90% of noma survivors die within a few weeks—but this is something we can prevent: good oral health plays a key role, not just in preserving your physical health, but also in safeguarding your mental well-being and quality of life. Telling my story encourages noma survivors and their families to keep fighting and gives them hope.”

MULIKAT OKANLAWON,
Noma survivor, co-founder
and president of Elysium, the first noma
survivors association

#WOHD25
#HappyMouth

worldoralhealthday.org



**World Oral
Health Day**
20 March



FDI World Dental Federation

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Noma is a severe gangrenous disease of the mouth and the face, mainly affecting children aged between two and six years.

Noma starts in the mouth and can spread very quickly and may lead to the destruction of skin, muscle, and bone.

Within a few days, if undiagnosed, noma causes death for 90% and leaves life-changing facial disfigurement for the other 10%.

Prevention and early detection are key to ensuring healthier, happier futures.

THE MAIN RISK FACTORS FOR NOMA



Malnutrition



Lack of oral hygiene



Weakened immune systems after other diseases

WHAT CAN BE DONE?



- **Early detection is key:** with appropriate prevention, awareness and early interventions noma can be effectively managed.
- **Treatment can help:** if diagnosed at an early stage, treatment is possible through basic hygiene, antibiotics, and improved nutrition.
- **Eradication of noma requires political commitment:** the eradication of noma needs concerted efforts to alleviate poverty, promote improved nutrition of both pregnant women and infants, and help to teach parents and healthcare workers to recognize early signs of the disease.

For more information and support:

fdiworlddental.org/noma-eradicating-preventable-disease-save-lives

