

'D3G Africa Project' launched at IAPD-2025, Cape Town



On 24th October, 2025, International Association of Paediatric Dentistry Congress Chair **Marietjie Weakley** launched **The D3 Group (D3G) 'D3 Africa Project'** following a presentation by **Morenike Folayan** (D3G's cultural attaché & ambassador for Africa) and **Mike Hubbard** (D3G founder/director).



An international, science-driven, child health initiative aimed at improving societies worldwide. Now mobilising a new healthcare paradigm aimed at **halving childhood tooth decay by making babies healthier**. See chalkyteeth.org/prevention



Mission

*Cutting-edge oral healthcare
– for African peoples –
by African peoples*

Vision

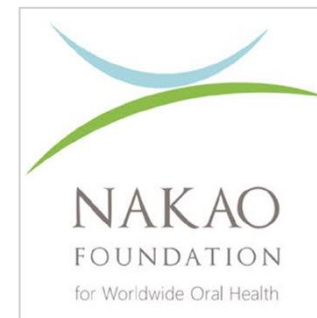
- Bring the Chalky Teeth Campaign to African peoples everywhere
- Use African learnings to benefit others around the globe

Initial Actions

- Gather stakeholders across sector
- Identify key questions, challenges
- Customise D3G initiatives for research, education & advocacy



The '**D3 Africa Project**' joins 4 other Chalky Teeth Campaign projects being established in Canada, Australasia, Polynesia and New Zealand. All Projects leverage D3G's unique translational approach to **stronger science, better practice & social good**. See chalkyteeth.org/fct-projects



We gratefully acknowledge seed funding from a **Nakao Foundation Recognition Award for Worldwide Oral Health** to D3G, 2025. See thed3group.org/news

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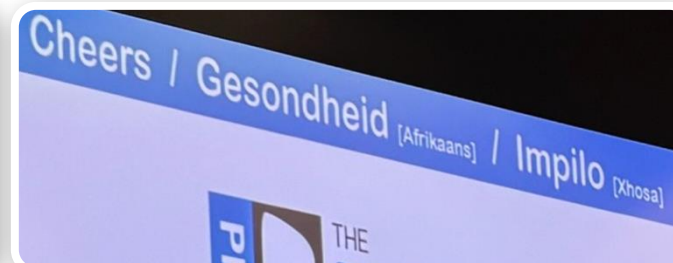
Morenike & Mike set the scene: New paradigm vs. old foundations, mobilisation campaigns, African "call to action"



Marietjie: One more thing!



Marietjie cut
The e-ribbon



Happy D3ers:
Tricia (Trinidad & Tobago)
Arthur (Kenya)
Azza (Sudan/USA)
Ola (Jordan/UAE)



New recruits



Happy instigators



Proud D3G parents

Africa's Chalky Molar Problem & Opportunity

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT

African context to the global 'chalky teeth problem'

Amazing humanistic complexity



Ethnic maps, 1959, Amer Geog Soc

Welcome to Africa

- > 1 billion people
- > 3,000 ethnic groups
- > 2,000 languages
- > 54 countries
- > Lots of opportunity
- > Several challenges

Human Development Index by country

- > Very high: 2
- > High: 8
- > Medium: 21
- > Low: 23 (43%)

No, all is not dire

People progress

- > Life expectancy
- > Quality of life
- > Poverty
- > Public education
- > Health services

Professionals

- > Education
- > Training
- > Collaboration
- > Research

Lack of research

Ignorance about MH

Molar Hypomineralisation (MH)

'THE CHALKY MOLAR PROBLEM'

There's more to Africa than you may think

- Corollary for D3G - advances in Africa will pay dividends elsewhere

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HEALTH BURDEN

L1: Burden of 'chalky molars' in Africa

Prevalence of chalky molars

2-year molars

Region	Prevalence (%)
North Africa	2.0
West Africa	2.0
East Africa	2.0
South Africa	2.0

6-year molars

Region	Prevalence (%)
North Africa	14.0
West Africa	14.0
East Africa	14.0
South Africa	14.0

Resources for oral health in Africa

Mondul Oluwatun Fajana¹, Ahmed Shayat², Sara S. Mahal³, Nicolas Idemba⁴ and Maha El Tantawi⁵

TABLE 1: Burden of major oral diseases in Africa.

Regions	Prevalence of untreated caries of permanent teeth in people 5+ years (Q) Mean (SD)
Northern Africa (n = 7)	15.72 (3.88)
Central Africa (n = 8)	25.48 (1.49)
Southern Africa (n = 18)	31.47 (3.86)
Eastern Africa (n = 10)	30.34 (4.20)
Western Africa (n = 10)	30.29 (3.31)

Prevalence [vs global avg]

- 2-year molars: 2% - 6%; 4% avg [10%]
- 6-year molars: 2% - 35%; 14% avg [15%]

Aggravating factors

- Poor access to preventive & general dentistry
- Near-zero opportunity for specialist orthodontics

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CURRENT HEALTHCARE

L2: MH education, awareness & policy in Africa

MH is on some dental curricula



Patchy dental awareness



Guidelines & policy



Education

- Dental - MH taught in some African dental schools
- Public - campaigns & guidelines absent

Awareness, guidelines & policy

- Professional - moderately aware (Libya, Egypt)
- Government - clinical guidelines/policy lacking

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TALENT

African power behind the D3-Chalky Teeth movement

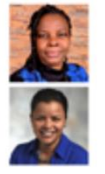
D3G leadership & advisors



Symposium keynotes, panelists, event host



Cultural attachés



Symposium participants & members

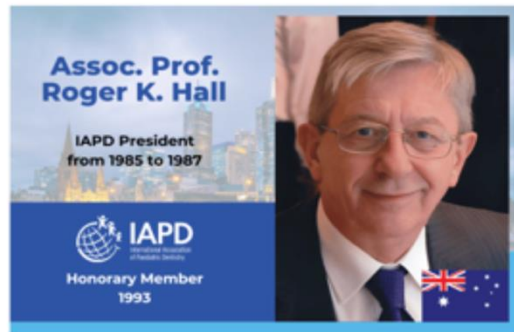


African D3ers home & abroad

- D3G leadership, advisors, ambassadors, host
- Representing Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, Sudan, USA

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Adieu & dedication



2017 launch of modernised MH concept

thed3group.org/d3g-news

Rest in peace "RKH"

- With gratitude from D3 family & Hubbard lab