

Report of Visit to Ghana – June 2008  
Dental Health  
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Trip Sponsored by MIDA

The purpose of this visit was to have an insight into the dental health status of the population of Ghana and recommend changes if necessary to improve oral health.

Schools within the rural areas of one region of Ghana were selected randomly. The dental health status of these children was examined. The decayed, missing and filled teeth (DMFT) were recorded at different ages and the data was then analysed.

The results showed that there was a difference in the DMFT scores among the various age groups, and also between the schools within the same region.

The differences in the DMFT scores may be due to a number of factors such as the dietary habits, oral hygiene and education. In order to improve the oral health status, changes would have to be implemented.

Recommendations: To include oral health education in the curriculum and for teachers to be involved in oral health education programmes thereby informing, promoting and improving the dental health; and further research into dietary and oral hygiene habits need to be investigated.