

# health assured

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Dental team providing free care to a patient in rural Uganda

Many of those treated had been living with long-term toothache or infections.

Dr Patel said: 'We were overwhelmed by numbers in need but have learned a huge amount from our Ugandan counterparts in terms of public oral health education, which is almost a forgotten art in UK practice.'

'People queued from early morning, some travelling for hours just to be seen. Although there are issues, we take the existence of widespread dental care for granted at home.'

The outreach took place at Alice Memorial Primary School in the Buikwe district in central Uganda and UK teams worked side by side with Ugandan counterparts to bring relief to local families and pupils of the school. The clinic ran workshops to teach children the basics of daily tooth-brushing and diet for good oral health and distributed toothbrushes donated by UK school children.

Anita, the project leader for the UDA, commented: 'Everyone worked together – dentists, nurses, students, and volunteers – it was truly a team effort.'

The UK team helped supply dental instruments and materials donated by practices and suppliers back home, all of which went directly into patient care.

The experience has inspired some of the participants to continue supporting dental access projects for those who can't access dentistry abroad and to raise awareness of oral health inequalities around the world. They intend to carry out further work and campaign for oral health education to be delivered in UK schools. ■

Correction to: Interprofessional education, cultural awareness and community collaboration

The original article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41415-025-9367-y>.

Journal correction note:

*News. Br Dent J* 2025; **239**: 606–607.

When this news article was first published, Aditi Naik's affiliation was incorrect. Aditi Naik is an undergraduate medical student.

The authors apologise for any inconvenience caused.