



WHY DOES THE AFRICAN REGION SUPPORT THE PHASING OUT OF DENTAL AMALGAM

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Background

- **Dental amalgam is toxic to the patient and dentist**
- **Cavity preparation takes away so much sound tooth structure**
- **No capacity to dispose off amalgam and costly**



Background Cont'd

- **Alternative materials (GIC ,Composite resins)**
- **Use of alternative material does not require electricity/dental chair nor sophisticated equipment complex**
- **Procedures can be performed even in the remote areas**



Zambian experience



Zambian experience

2001 ministry of health in conjunction with teeth savers international:

- Robust awareness on the use of alternative to dental amalgam
- All practicing dentists/therapists were oriented in Atraumatic Restoration Technique (ART)
- A school to train school leavers in ART was initiated 2001
- Program was integrated in primary health care throughout the country
- Children from the age of 6 years are targeted



Zambian experience Cont'd

- We have been running the program for 18 years now
- The ministry of health have scaled up the procurement of alternative materials
- They have stopped procuring dental amalgam
- Dental schools have stopped using dental amalgam
- Curriculum to be changed to this effect
- Most if not all children born after 1995 are dental amalgam free



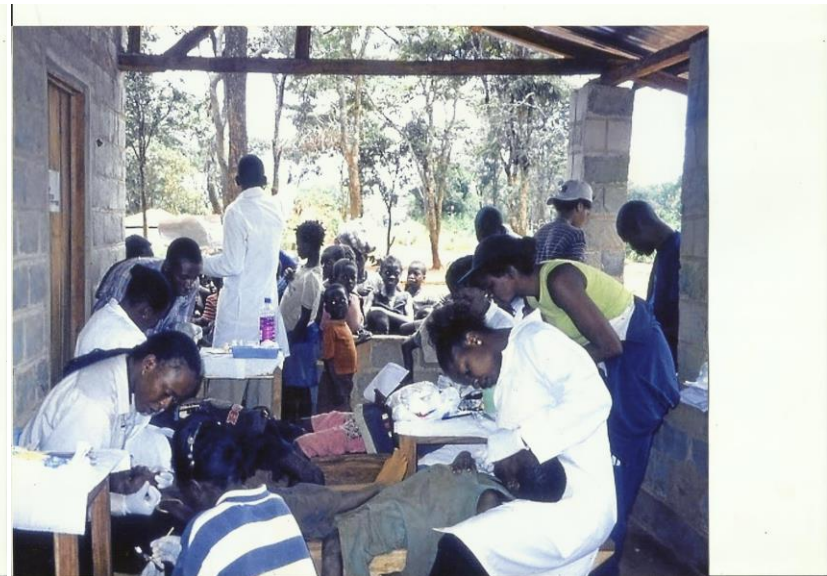
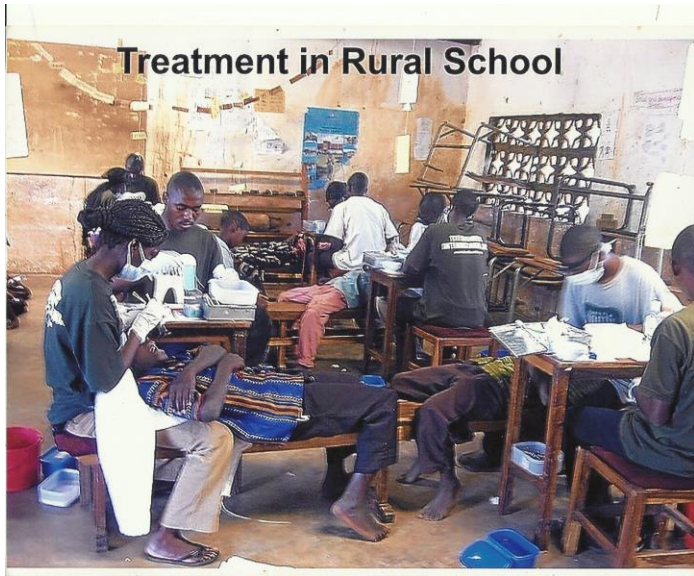
What does the African region need?



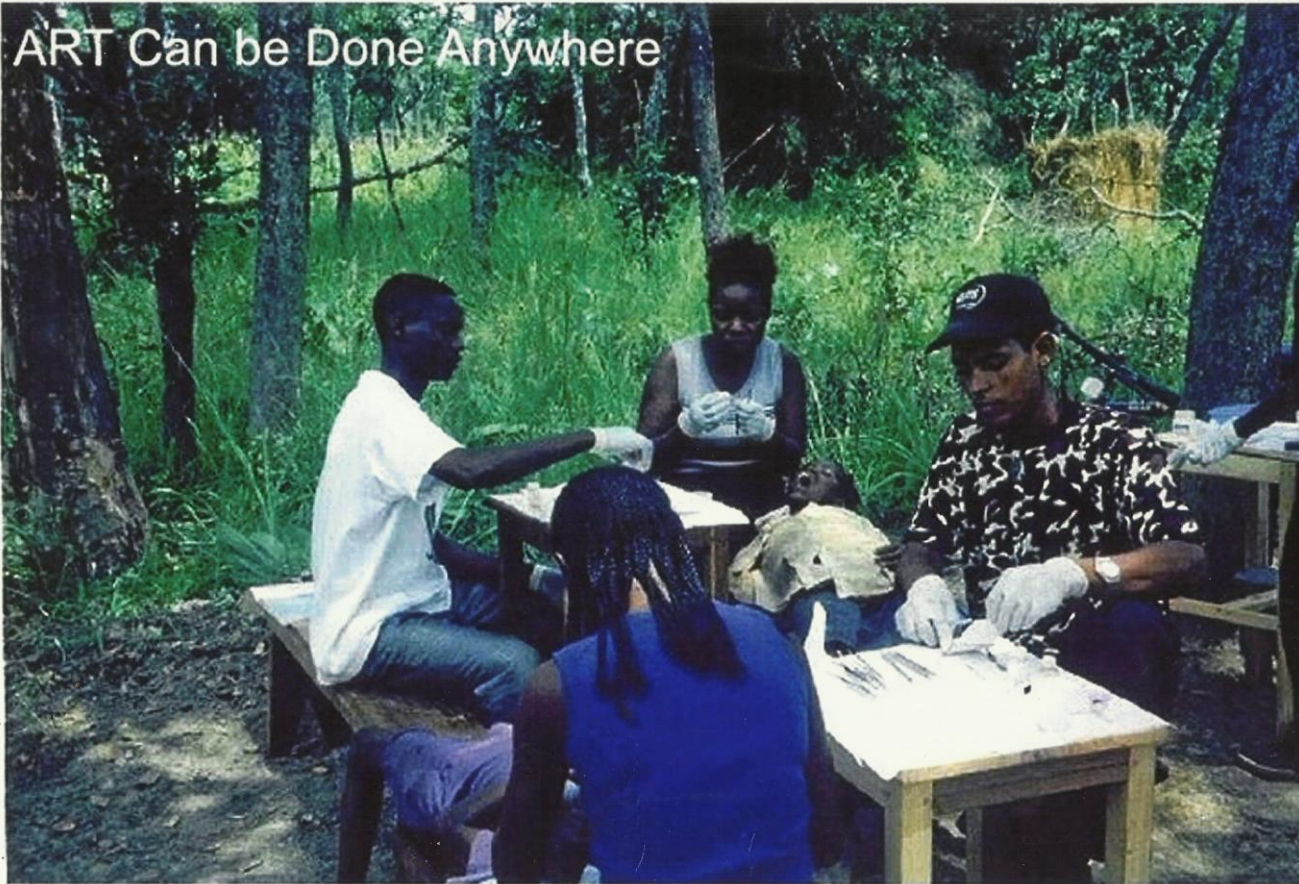
What does the African region need?

- Leadership to drive the agenda of phasing out dental amalgam
- Political will
- Inter-ministerial collaboration including NGOs
- Meticulous planning for universal coverage
- Integrate the program in primary health care

Outreach in rural Zambia



ART Can be Done Anywhere





Conclusion

I thank you for your attention

Zambia remains committed to managing our environment and supporting the objectives and goals of the Minamata Convention on Mercury