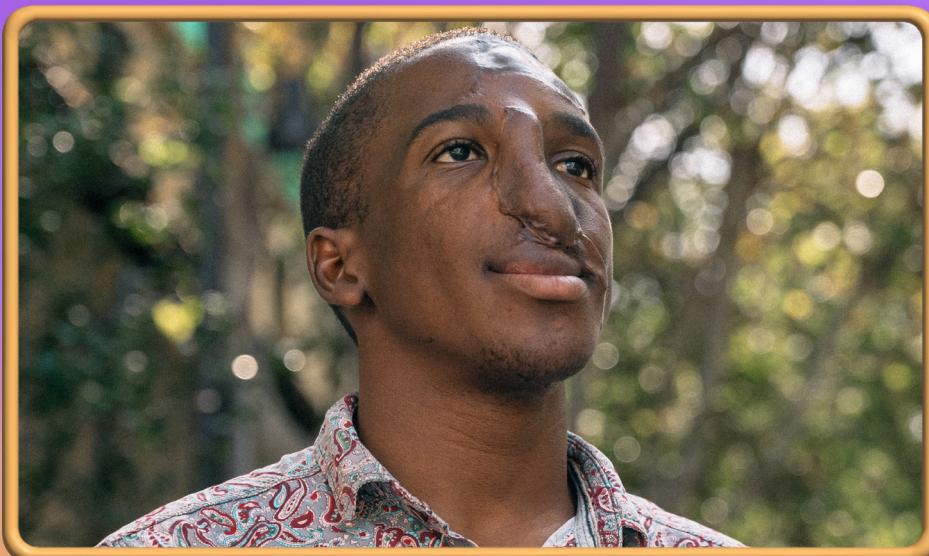


# A HAPPY MOUTH IS... a basic human right

RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT NOMA TO SAVE LIVES



“Good oral health matters at every age — it's key to a good quality of life. Noma, if not treated early, can affect a person for life. I was 10 when it changed mine, and now I'm determined to ensure others don't suffer as I did.”

**VALTER MUENDANE**

*Noma survivor and advocate of Elysium, the first noma survivors organization*



World Oral  
Health Day  
20 March

[worldoralhealthday.org](http://worldoralhealthday.org)  
#WOHD26 #HappyMouth

**fdi**  
FDI World Dental Federation

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# A HAPPY MOUTH IS... a basic human right

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](http://fdiworlddental.org/noma-eradicating-preventable-disease-save-lives)

