

## **Oral health awareness – PCEA Rungiri parish community outreach**

Community awareness of dental diseases and treatment modalities is generally low in most Kenyan populations. This is the reason that the division of Community and Preventive Dentistry of the University of Nairobi's School of Dental Sciences regularly participates in community outreach camps.

On August 31<sup>st</sup> 2013, a free medical and dental camp was held at Ngure Church of PCEA Rungiri Parish in Kiambu County. Oral health education, screening for dental diseases and treatment were offered to over 150 members of this community. The team of dental consultants was led by Dr. R. Mutave, current Chairman of the Department of Periodontology/ Community and Preventive Dentistry and Dr. B. Mua who is the head of the division of Community and Preventive Dentistry. Seventeen undergraduate students participated in this outreach led by the outgoing NUDSA chairman F. Mbaka and the incoming chairman T. Mukavale.

For the first time in years, this community dental outreach was equipped with a portable dental operatory to enable the dentists to not only perform extractions, but also to undertake fillings for decayed teeth. This dental operatory was a donation to the School of Dental Sciences by the Rotary Club of California, District 5160 in the United States of America. Several patients received fillings while complex cases were referred to the Dental School.

The dental camp organizers take infection control very seriously. A dedicated team of three nurses led by L. Wainaina worked tirelessly to ensure all instruments were ready for use. In this team too was our own dedicated ICT Technologist D. K. Owino who made sure the event was documented for the website.

The materials and financial support used during this dental outreach camp were provided by our partners Wrigleys International. Special thanks to W. Nduati and associates who were at hand to assist with registration and crowd management.