

NOMA



Did you know?

Noma is a **neglected tropical disease** that mainly affects children aged 2-6 years.

WHAT IS NOMA?

Noma is a severe gangrenous disease that starts in the mouth. It can spread rapidly, destroying the skin, muscles and bones of the face.

RISK FACTORS

- ➔ Living in extreme poverty and malnutrition
- ➔ Poor oral hygiene
- ➔ Weakened immune systems caused by diseases such as HIV, malaria and measles

Africa is the most affected continent, although cases have also been reported in Asia, the Americas and other regions.

WHY EARLY ACTION MATTERS

Untreated noma causes death in around 90% of patients within days. Many survivors experience life-changing facial disfigurement, difficulty eating and speaking, social stigma and isolation, and often require complex surgery and rehabilitation.

WHAT YOU CAN DO



Noma is preventable: good oral hygiene and adequate nutrition can help prevent the disease.



Detect it early: early detection is essential because progression can be halted through basic hygiene, antibiotics and improved nutrition. Regular oral examinations of children, at home or during healthcare visits, can help identify gum lesions (sores) that may develop into noma in children at risk.



Support wider action: ending noma requires political commitment and coordinated action to address poverty, improve nutrition for pregnant women and young children, and help parents and healthcare workers recognize the early signs of the disease.



WHERE TO GO NEXT

The World Health Organization has published an **information brochure** on the early detection and management of noma.



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World Oral Health Day
20 March



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EVERYWHERE
IS INVITED
TO JOIN US

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