



When word spread that LifeNet was training local nurses to provide basic dental operations and was in need of patients for the hands-on training in the afternoon, there was a 2km long line of volunteers by 7 in the morning. This drastic example is just one indicator of the extreme need for dentists in the East African nation of Burundi. Currently, there are only a few dentists in the entire country and they operate nearly exclusively in Bujumura, the capital, where only 10% of Burundians live. When serious oral health problems arise, therefore most Burundians cannot afford the trip to the capital and the fees to see a dental specialist. Inevitably, patients are forced either to operate on themselves, do nothing, or pay a local nurse with no dental training. LifeNet is committed to making sustainable, accessible health care a reality for the people of East Africa.

To realize this goal more fully, LN has developed an efficient and cost-effective dental training program to equip local nurses with the tools and training they need to perform essential dental procedures and fill the severe need in their communities.

Context	
North Carolina	Population: 10 million <i>Active Dentists: 4990</i>
Burundi	Population: 10 million <i>Active Dentists: <10</i>

The Program

LifeNet's Dental Training program is training 80 nurses from 13 provinces. Training at 8 locations, LN trainers will spend 3 days at each location equipping the nurses with both abstract and concrete dental lessons. At the end of each three-day session, each trainee will have practiced dental care on a minimum of 15 patients under the oversight of the LN dental surgeon and, after passing a written test, will receive a certificate of accomplishment. The primary goal of the program is to fully train all 80 nurses so they are able to perform basic dental procedures at their local health centers. The secondary goal is to provide as many dental consultations and surgeries under the supervision of LN's Dr. Aristide Mbonihankuye and volunteer dental specialist Dr. Mohamed Abdel-Hakim. So far, the program has treated an average of 100 patients per day during the training.

"I had already done extractions many times before the training, but I have learned many things here. The new methods do not cause extreme pain like the old ones. I think we will help many patients now."

Request

The full cost for program materials, in-country transportation, food, lodging, and travel expenses for the volunteer dental specialist from the US is \$8,361. This high-impact program will equip 80 nurses to fill the basic dental needs in their communities and will also provide oral surgery under the oversight of an oral surgeon to hundreds of Burundians. To help meet this extreme need in Burundi, LN invites you to make a one-time grant of \$8,500.

