



# The Transition to Mercury-Free Dentistry in Africa

## III. Across Africa & the world, big successes + enormous progress!

Success in Africa!

- The end of amalgam for all children and all women of childbearing age: The Tanzania Guidelines
- All major stakeholders from government, NGO, and dental association agree to phase out amalgam: Zambia
- Amalgam ban for children: Mauritius
- Consumer and parent information brochure: Nigeria
- Hospital bans: Cameroun and Benin
- Model province projects to end amalgam for children: Tunisia, Kenya, Nigeria
- To post your successes, write Maimouna (français) or Griffins (English), Facebook editors, African Center for Environmental Health Facebook editors!

#### Help from America

- Diaspora Doctors: The U.S. National Medical Association (the Black physicians) is available to help governments and NGOs end amalgam; to contact Dr. Mark Mitchell, talk to your regional supervisor.
- Infographics from U.S. Food & Drug Administration helps guide parents and young women, and dentists to choose alternatives: In English: <a href="https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/dental-amalgam-fillings/dental-amalgam-fillings-recommendations-graphics">https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/dental-amalgam-fillings/dental-amalgam-fillings-recommendations-graphics</a>; in Spanish (perhaps helpful to Lusophones & Francophones): <a href="https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/dental-amalgam-fillings/recomendaciones-sobre-los-rellenos-de-amalgam-dental-graficos">https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/dental-amalgam-fillings/recomendaciones-sobre-los-rellenos-de-amalgam-dental-graficos</a>
- The Secretariat of the World Alliance is there to help the campaign in any African nation; Charlie has been 10 times to Africa.

### Dentists for a Mercury-Free Africa

Based in Lagos and led by Professor Godwin Arotiba, this continental organization is the voice for dentists to end amalgam on the continent: <u>http://mercuryfreedentistsafrica.org/;</u> email <u>mercuryfreedentists.africa@gmail.com</u> Francophone vice-chair: Professor Florent Kouakou in Abidjan.

#### Successes worldwide

*Phased out:* Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Moldova, Nepal, Netherlands, New Caledonia, Norway, Philippines, Slovakia, Suriname, and Sweden have phased out amalgam use, or announced its phase out date, or ended amalgam with the tiniest exceptions.

*European Union* ended amalgam for children and for pregnant and breastfeeding women (2018). The European Commission recommends to the European Parliament and Council that amalgam use end on a set date.