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Poste Italiane Spa - PP- Economy - DCO/DCVT/n°5fb del 24/05/02 - Sped. in A.P. - art.1 comma 1 D.L. 353/2003 conv. In L. n. 46/04 - CDSU VT G.C.



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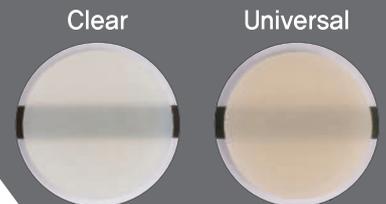
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U-Cem Premium

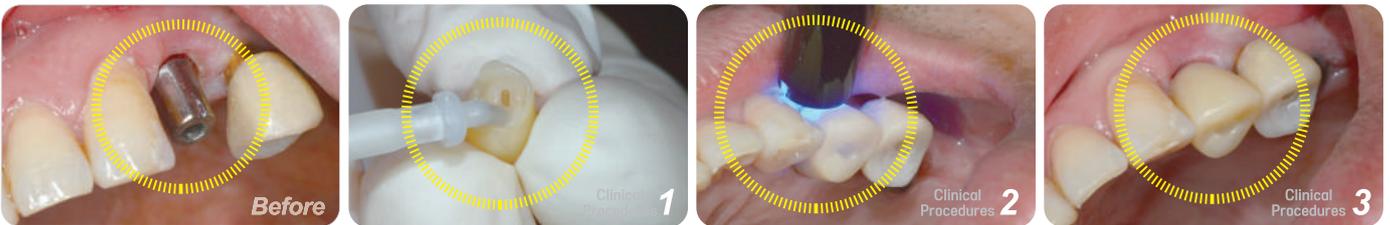
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Clinical application : Implant Case with Zirconia Crown Cementation



Clinical application : Inlay case using U-Cem Premium Resin Cement



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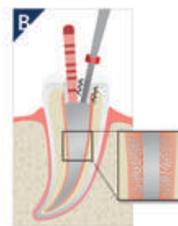


Single Cone Technique

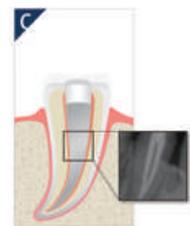
Complete root canal sealing without tissue irritation



Apply DIA-ROOT™ BIO SEALER by the coronal third of the canal.



Fill the root canal with selected GP cones and lightly pump the GP cones up to the root canal to fill up the Apex.



Complete root canal treatment.

contents



6 EDITOR'S NOTE

30 MARKET OUTLOOK
The Philippines - Fully
Immersed in the Asian Boom

54 DISTRIBUTORS WALL

8 PREMIUM HIGHLIGHTS

40 HOT TOPIC
The Power of Water

58 CALENDAR

20 HIGHLIGHTS

48 AT A GLANCE
Oral Reconstruction
Global Symposium 2023

62 NON PROFIT
Dental Care for Street
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INTERVIEWED COMPANIES:



Sense of Belonging



Social belonging is a psychological necessity and basic human requirement, part of our DNA. As social animals, humans require an emotional connection with others around them. We desire to feel part of a group and to communicate, support and be supported within our communities.

As the world is constantly changing and evolving, external events like climate change, political instability, global pandemic, discrimination, war, are making us feel polarized, less stable, and volatile, causing a sense of frustration, fear, and disruptions. This is leading to individuals finding solace in everyday life. For most of us, this means turning to the work organization to find a sense of meaning and solidarity. However, organizations are going through their own disruptions



Shifts in workforce composition, ways of working, virtual workplace... are leading to changes that leave workers feeling isolated. The pandemic has further, and inevitably, led many to reassess the value and purpose of work in their lives, and employees are increasingly looking to work for personal fulfillment and satisfaction, essential to which is a sense of belonging.

The need to belong is not something that can just be put to the side and ignored; businesses spend a lot of money each year on diversity and inclusion trainings that miss the mark because they neglect our need to feel included. For organizations to build a sense of community and foster collaboration in the workplace, they need to provide employees a non-judgmental space in which to share personal interests, passions, and val-

ues. If an employee feels safe opening up in the workplace, they will feel more connected to their work and to the organization.

Without a feeling of belonging, many employees do not feel motivated to work and do not function well within their environment. 40% of people report feeling isolated at work which results in them functioning at a suboptimal level and working below their potential. Exclusion is damaging because it actually hurts, our brain responds to it in a manner parallel to physical pain. And it's a sting we've all experienced at one time or another. To feel left out is a deeply human problem, which is why its consequences carry such heft and why its causes are so hard to root out of even the healthiest workplaces. Recent research shows that if workers feel like they belong, companies reap substantial bottom-line benefits: 56% increase in job performance, 50% reduction in turnover risk, 75% decrease in sick days.

A desire to achieve a sense of belonging in the workplace, as part of a team or the overall organization they work for, is today driving career decisions for many. A survey – carried out by Randstad, workmonitor 2023 - found that a majority of workers (54%) would quit if they didn't sense they belonged at their company. 42% wouldn't take a job if the company's values wouldn't align with their personal ones. 94% of the workforce consider work-life balance important and more than half (61%) wouldn't accept a position that would disrupt this balance. A significant share would quit if they found themselves in a toxic working environment (34%), and an even greater portion (48%) would quit a job if it prevented them from enjoying their life.

These numbers validate the importance of creating a business culture in which employees feel a sense of belonging; recruiting great talent requires more than just competitive pay and benefits. It's clear that talent today want the whole package: secure, flexible, inclusive, and financially stable employment in a place they feel they belong. Although this is not always straightforward, measures have to be taken to make work enjoyable and desirable for your employees.

I believe that if we give people the equitable opportunity to not only be employed, but to have employment with purpose and passion, our society can and will do great things. It's a measurable good for everyone.

Baldo Pipitone

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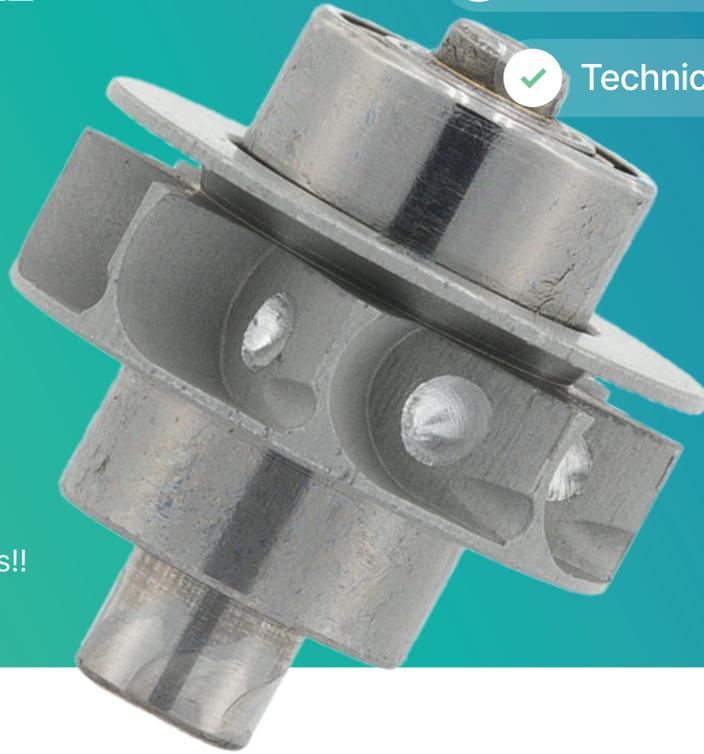
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COMPANIES LOOKING FOR DISTRIBUTORS premium highlights

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It is the perfect timing to discover the new Wirele-x, A cutting edge Wireless Apex Locator System which is cable-free work environment

Utilizing the advantages of well-proven patented technology, Forumtec has released the **Wirele-X**, described as a state-of-the-art, innovative apex locator incorporating advanced wireless technology to eliminate the need for long cables. The **Wirele-X** consists of a notably small apex locator unit and a 7" high-resolution touch display screen. Measurements are transmitted from the apex locator to the display unit using Bluetooth technology.

The apex locator together with the monitoring application display unit is designed to help achieve optimal performance and sustainable use



during working length determination. According to the manufacturer, it is the first and only wireless apex locator available in the market today.

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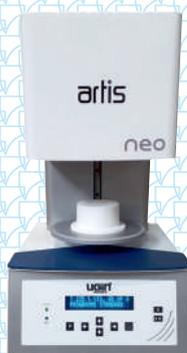
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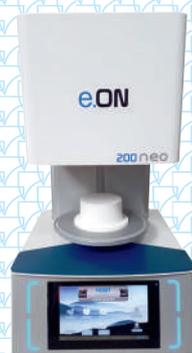
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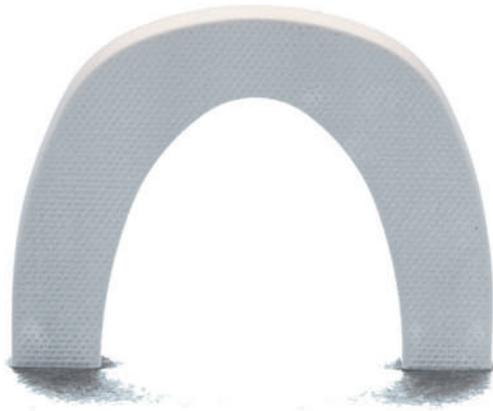
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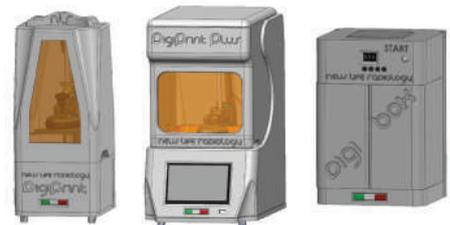
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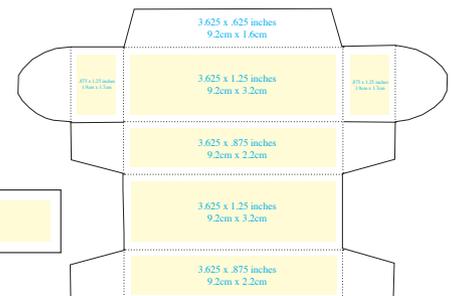
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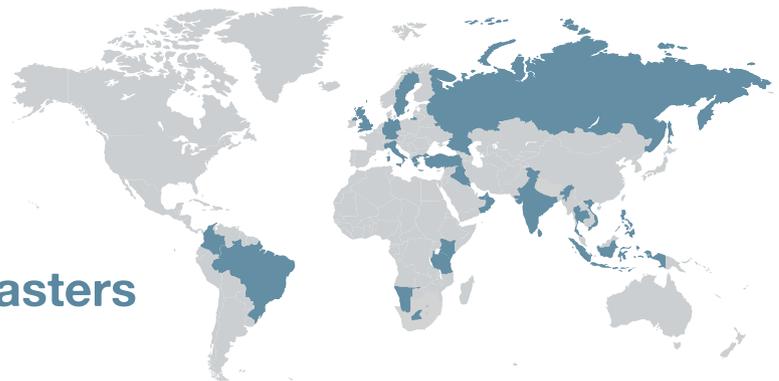
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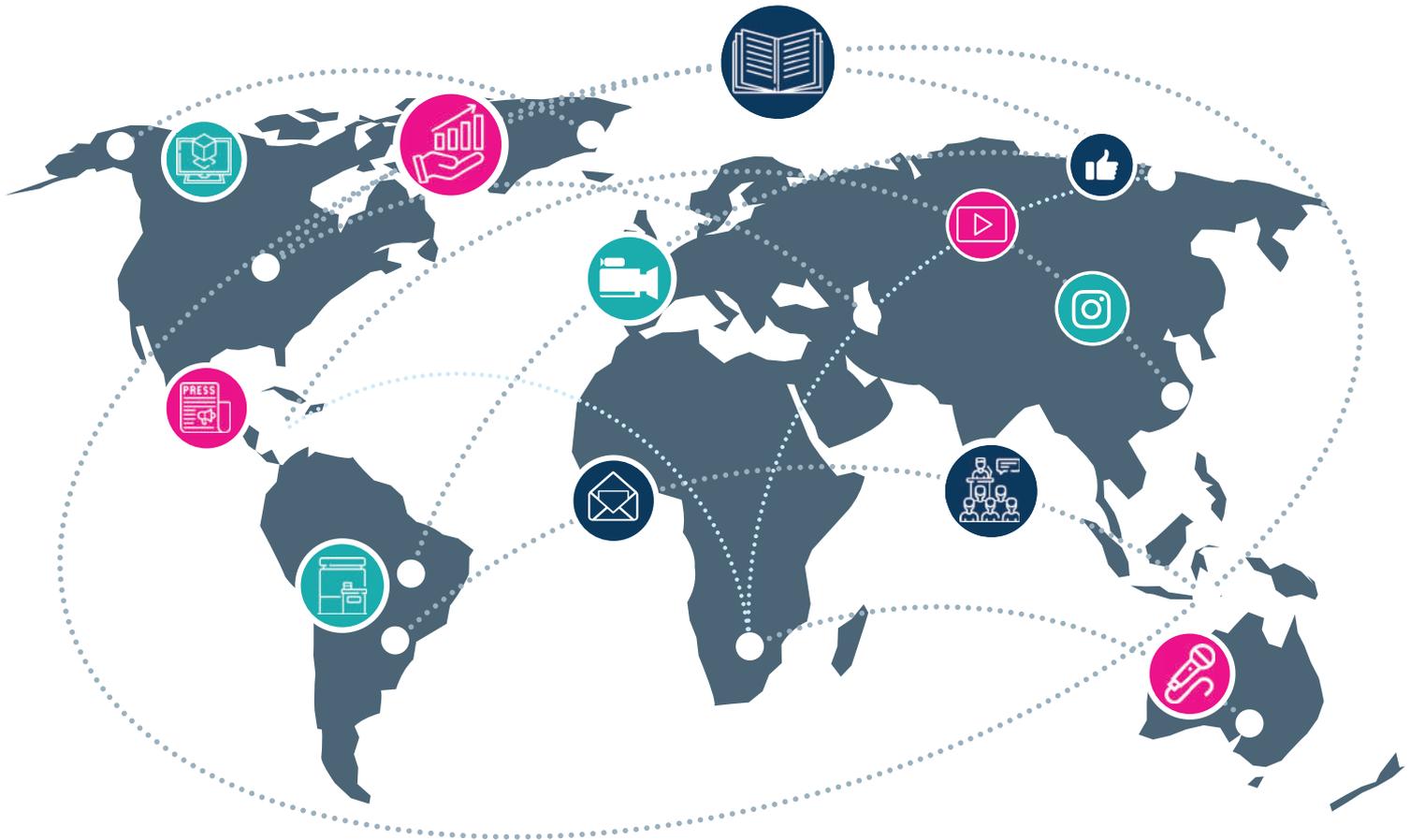
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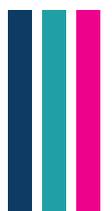
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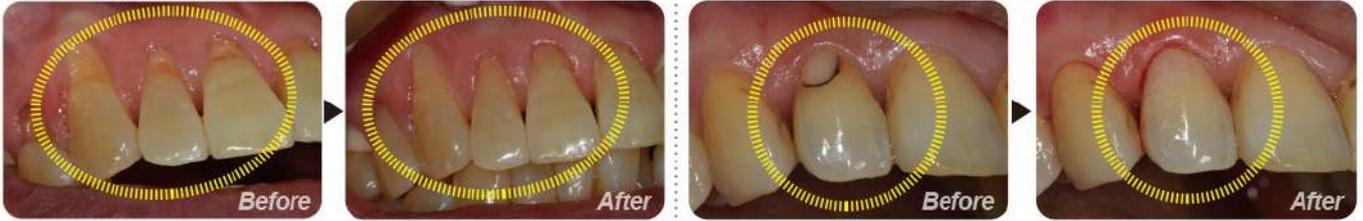
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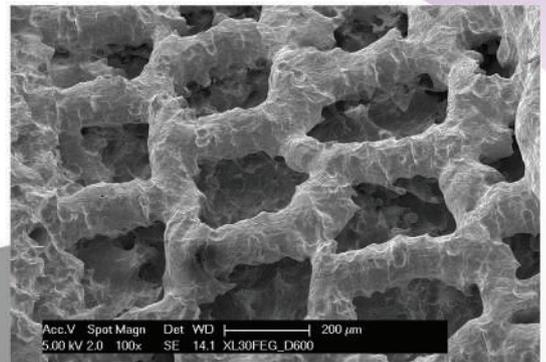
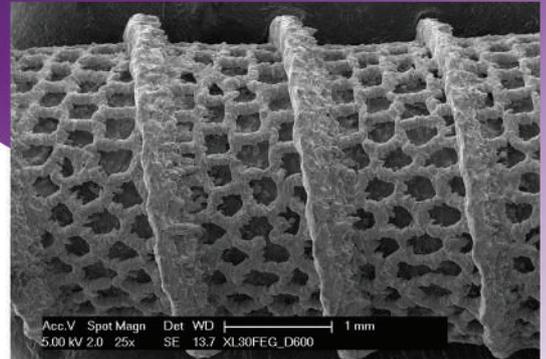


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Market Outlook

STRENGTHS

High consumption propension

Also differs from other Asian countries in the elevated level of consumption, which covers 70% of the GDP. This is due to the growth of the middle class, formed largely by young people, to a clearly more hedonistic culture than the thrifty one that characterizes many Asian countries, but also to a specific phenomenon: the strong inflows of remittances from abroad (valued at ~ 8% of GDP), sent to families by about 10 million Filipinos who emigrated to the world, which translates into substantial volumes of purchases that are channeled into the shopping centers of the country, among the largest in Asia.

Manufacture on site to export to Asia and the world

The Philippines offers an advantageous base to operate in East Asia with access to all major markets of the area thanks to a dense network of treaties and free trade agreements signed within the ASEAN framework. Local legislation provides strong tax incentives and other facilities for activities aimed at exporting (by settling in one of the numerous Special Economic Zones scattered throughout the country), to the substitution of imported products (e.g., biofuels instead of oil), or to the introduction of innovative technologies.

Strong economic growth and excellent economic indicators

For the next few years, GDP average growth rate is estimated above 6%. To complete the context, a high level of foreign exchange reserves, low inflation (in recent years it has fluctuated between 3 and 5%, despite the rapid economic growth), low level of public debt (little less than 50%), the status of IMF net creditor, and the international recognition of the level of "investment grade" with regard to the credit rating.

Rich in human and natural resources

63% of the Philippine population is aged between 15 and 64, with an estimated literacy rate of 96%. The country is considered among the top 5 in the world by overall level of mineral resources (calculated at 1.4 trillion USD). Second for gold deposits and third for copper, the Philippines has reserves in the subsoil for 152 million barrels of oil and 105 billion cubic meters of natural gas.

Infrastructures improvement

The government has launched a massive "Build, Build, Build" infrastructural improvement project (roads, ports, airports, etc.) to be implemented through partnership actions between the public and private sectors.

Digital Infrastructures

The Philippines will spend about \$4.4 billion on digital infrastructure over the next six years. Priority subsectors include cybersecurity, the cloud, and telecommunications.

Low labor costs

market and economy constantly growing with lower costs (labor, managers, rents, etc.) to China and other ASEAN countries, with an excellent university tradition. The Philippines distinguishes itself from the rest of Asia in language, religion, and mentality. Strongly Catholic and deeply linked to the USA, the Philippines is a country accessible to Western countries thanks to the universal use of English, second official language of the country and taught in all schools.

Corruption and governmental red tape

Constitutionally independent courts, however characterized by procedural lengths (delaying defense tactics). Judges are not always well informed about economic issues. Frequent application of political interpretations instead of strict legal interpretations. Widespread corruption. Businesses should, as far as possible, try to resolve cases out of court or through arbitration.

Economic vulnerability

more exposed to worsening economic conditions in the developed world than many of its Asian neighbors. End-product markets that are assembled in the country (e.g., electronic products) are usually destined for more developed countries (Japan, USA and China are the main markets of destination), representing one of the main economic vulnerabilities of the country.

WEAKNESSES

Areas of instability

Due to decades-long conflicts between the Government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), and despite successful negotiations with the current Government, some areas of the country require careful safety planning before any investment. Every trip to western Mindanao (and the Sulu archipelago) should only take place under strict protection.

Disaster prone

The Philippines are very disaster prone, both as a result of typhoons and due to seismic and volcanic activity. Philippines is part of 'The Ring of Fire.' Emergency and rescue services and emergency care play a key role in mitigation.

The Philippines

Fully Immersed in the Asian Boom

READING TIME
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Author: Silvia Borriello
Editorial Director
silvia.borriello@infodent.com

Over the past few decades, the topic of health has become increasingly more important in the Philippines, where the healthcare system continues to grow thanks to the rise in public and private investments, to address the increasing demand for health services.

With around 117 million inhabitants, the Philippines is among the most populous countries in the world and one of the most dynamic economies in the East Asia-Pacific region. **Characterized by a market and an economy fully immersed in the Asian boom, its average annual growth increased to 6.4% between 2010-2019 from an average of 4.5% between 2000-2009. Categorized as a newly industrialized country, it is transitioning from one based on agriculture to one based more on services and manufacturing.** The Philippine economy has also made progress in achieving inclusive growth, highlighted by the decline in poverty rates and the Gini coefficient. Poverty decreased from 23.3% in 2015 to 16.6% in 2018, while the Gini coefficient decreased from 44.9

to 42.7 over the same period. However, the COVID-19 pandemic and the community quarantine measures imposed in the country have had a major impact on the economic growth and poverty reduction. Growth contracted significantly in 2020, due to the sharp decline in consumption and investment growth, exacerbated by the slowdown in tourism and remittances. Nonetheless, the economy has started to recover with a 5.6% year-on-year expansion in 2021, supported by pub-

lic investment and the recovery of the external context. The economy is expected to rebound further, thanks to a domestic recovery, as well as the reopening of the economy. However, the economy faces downside risks stemming from the weakness of the external environment, which is being affected by an expected deceleration of global growth, rising inflation and geopolitical turmoil. The recovery should have a positive impact on further poverty reduction.

“ With around 117 million inhabitants, the Philippines is among the most populous countries in the world and one of the most dynamic economies in the East Asia-Pacific region.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 est.	2024 est.
GDP (bln € at current prices)	306.4	318.5	323	344.4	341.3	392.4	423.9
GDP growth rate at constant prices (% change)	6.3	6.1	-9.4	5.5	7.6	4.8	6.4
GDP per capita at current prices (US\$)	3,188	3,408	3,223	3,454	3,493	3,681	4,013
Unemployment rate (%)	5.3	5.1	10.4	8	5.5	5.7	5.5
Population (million)	108.6	110.4	112.2	113.9	115.6	117.3	119.1
Total export volume (€ billion)	61.4	60.1	58.3	65.4	66.9	73.4	76
Total import Volume (€ billion)	105.6	99.4	85	108.1	123.7	133.9	138.8
Export of goods & services (% of GDP)	30.2	28.4	25.2	25.8	28.2	28.5	28.2
Import of goods & services (% of GDP)	42	40.5	32.9	37.8	44.3	44.6	43.8

Notes: (1) Import volume data 2021, Population 2022 and pro capite GDP 2022 (2) Both Imports and Exports are considered as FOB
 Source: Processing by the MAECI Economic Observatory on Economist Intelligence Unit data, taken from InfoMercatiEsteri report, Ita - Italian Trade Agency

The health sector in the Philippines continues to change after a decade of increased public spending on health-care. **It is characterized by a dual health system composed of public sector next to a well-developed, and expanding, private sector.** The sprawling country of over 7,600 islands has a very decentralized system of government which is reflected in the governance and structure of the health-care system. **The Manila Capital Region (MNC) and Luzon are the economic heart of the country and also contain**

the largest share of both public and private healthcare infrastructure (47% of the population is urban and rising again in the last decade). **Health services in the public sector are provided by health facilities run by the National and local governments and are largely financed through a tax-based budgeting system.** The health system is a complex, multi-layered system in which responsibilities are fragmented, and shared between the central government (the Ministry

of Health), and Local Government Units that have full autonomy to organize and finance their 'own' regional systems. **The private system is composed of thousands of for profit and non-profit providers involved in the delivery of various health products and services.** It is largely market-oriented, where health services are generally paid for through user fees at the point of service, though the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Phil-Health) also purchases services from both the public and private sectors.

The private health sector is regulated by the Government through a system of standards and guidelines implemented through the licensure procedures of the Department of Health (DOH) and the accreditation procedures of PhilHealth. It consists of clinics, infirmaries, laboratories, hospitals, drugstores, pharmaceutical and medical supply companies, health insurance companies, academic and research institutions and informal service providers that include traditional healers (herbolarios) and traditional birth attendants (hilots). **The private sector's collective contribution to health service provision is enormous and their capacity augments the gaps and inadequacies of the public sector.** While private services are generally considered to be expensive by locals, they are in fact relatively cheap by most international standards. The relative affordability of private health-care can be seen in the emerging popularity of the Philippines as a medical tourism destination, mostly for low-cost aesthetic and dental procedures. The Philippines ranked 24th out of 46 countries on the 2020 Medical Tourism Index, with competitive medical services prices and English-speaking medical professionals. Private hospitals are consistently upgrading their facilities to be on par with other countries. The country has implemented several rounds of reform to strengthen its health system: a decentralized health governance in 1991, a social health insurance program—PhilHealth—in 1995 and has actively pursued universal health coverage (UHC) since 2010. In 2019, former President Rodrigo Duterte further signed the Universal Health Care Bill into law, ushering in massive reforms in the health sector. **Among the salient features of the UHC Law**

is the expansion of population, service, and financial coverage through an array of health system amendments. This is accompanied by a planned paradigm shift to primary care, which is the core and center of all health reforms under the UHC.

As a consequence of its focus on the health sector, and general socioeconomic development, the country has achieved significant improvements in life expectancy and immunization coverage, as well as a twofold reduction in infant and under-5 mortality. This is attributed mainly to improvements in living conditions, better access to health services, and improved management and treatment of infectious diseases, like pneumonia and tuberculosis. Although much has been achieved to date, there are still many concerns that need to be tackled, such as prominent regional and socioeconomic disparities in the availability and accessibility of resources. There is maldistribution of health infrastructure and human resources across and within regions, concentrated in Metro Manila and other major cities. While the overall quality of the Philippines' state-subsidized public healthcare is good, healthcare in rural areas is of significantly lower quality than at hospitals in large cities. Public healthcare also faces strain from treating the substantial number of Filipinos who rely on it. There is also a trend of Filipino medical staff migrating to Western countries, which has resulted in understaffing in some hospitals and delays in treatment. The adoption of the Universal Health Care Bill is considered a crucial step to address such inequalities. **The UHC Law aims to cover at least 50% of medical expenses to encourage Filipinos to visit specialty doctors and undergo advanced medical procedures. How-**

ever, increasing the depth of the coverage will remain an ambitious target for years to come. Reforms also emphasize strengthening Service Delivery Networks through general practitioners and family physicians and a gatekeeping processes, increasing compliance with clinical practice guidelines and providing health services closer to people through use of mobile clinics, subsidies to patient transport costs and the use of telemedicine.

In terms of human resources for health, the top four categories of institution-based health workers are nurses (90,308), doctors (40,775), midwives (43,044) and medical technologists (13,413) (2017 figures). The public sector engages a higher proportion of nurses (61%), midwives (91%) and medical technologists (53%). Compensation is considered better in public facilities. **The distribution in terms of place of work of institutional health workers is hospital-centric, thus curative in nature. Only 9% of doctors work outside the hospital in primary care settings.** Average density of doctors is 6 per 10,000 population, much lower than in Thailand and Vietnam or China, but higher than Indonesia. **The Philippines is a well-known supplier of doctors and nurses worldwide, based on qualifications and command of the English language however, health worker's migration deprives the health sector of much needed health workers and doctors who often work abroad.** Despite many different policy efforts to reduce the flow, in recent years still an average of 13,000 nurses migrate every year. Many stay for substantial periods overseas before returning or try to naturalize (in particular in the USA).



National Health Insurance Program

The National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) is carried out by PhilHealth, which receives premiums from households, firms, and government. PhilHealth reimburses healthcare costs at both public and private facilities. However, it matches only part of the total health care costs, ranging between 30-70% maximum. Although central in organized healthcare financing, > 90 percent of Philippines were directly or indirectly covered before 2019, the role of PhilHealth is limited due to the skewed distribution of health facilities, limitations in type of care covered and limited 'depth' of financing services, or the share of the healthcare costs reimbursed.

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try to naturalize (in particular in the USA).

Government health expenditure has increased significantly in nominal terms, but it has been eclipsed by private sector funding sources, which have grown rapidly with the economy. The three major flows of public health financing have overlapping coverage. The Department of Health funds regional and apex hospitals, while local government fund primary and secondary-level care. PhilHealth, the National health insurance, reimburses government as well as private health facilities. It reportedly covers 92% of the population, 40% of which is the poor population and subsidized by the Government for premium payments. **Covered services are focused on inpatient care and inadequate outpatient care that only covers the poor members of PhilHealth.** Despite efforts to reform the provider payment system to increase financial protection, the share of facilities' bill covered by PhilHealth is on average 30% to 52%. PhilHealth cannot yet be considered a strategic purchaser of services, mainly because it accounts for a small share

of total health expenditure, while out-of-pocket spending continues to be the dominant source of financing for healthcare. **While PhilHealth membership coverage has expanded, its benefit coverage remains mainly for inpatient care, and it provides only limited financial support.** Access remains highly inequitable due to the maldistribution of facilities, health staff and specialists. While deployment programs are easing these problems, these strategies result in monitoring and sustainability problems. Patient satisfaction and user experience of health services may show improvements, but balance billing, i.e., service charges set by the hospital, which are not covered by PhilHealth case rate payment, are billed to the patient and outside-hospital purchases continue to impoverish patients. The limited number of health facilities relative to the growing population, overprovision of physicians, under-provision of care and poor physician adherence to clinical practice guidelines contribute to a low quality of care.

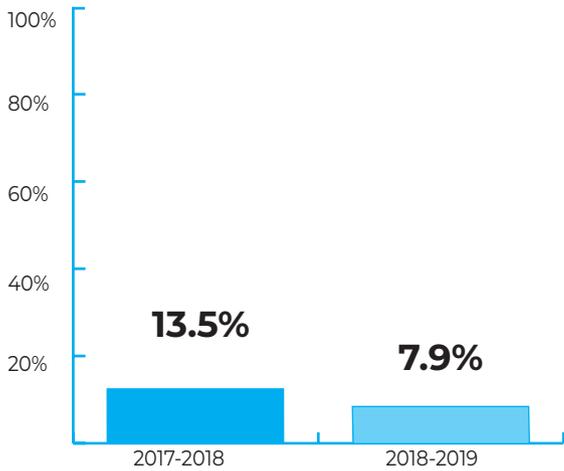
Health Facility Type	Total Facilities	Government	Private	No License	Licensed
Barangay Health Stations (Village basic, first-hand health care facility)	25,617	25,616	1	1,139	39
Birthing Homes	2,965	1,251	1,714	7	2,930
Rural Health Units	2,604	2,604	0	118	199
Hospitals	1,350	463	887	26	1,311
Infirmaries	650	360	290	10	639
City Health Offices	43	43	0	12	3
Other Health & Health related facilities	7,366				

Source: National Health Facility Registry: <https://nhfr.doh.gov.ph/Home>

Current Health Expenditure (CHE), 2019	€ 14 billion (10.9% higher compared to 2018)
Total Health Expenditure (THE), 2019	€ 16 billion (up by 7.9% from 2018)
Share of THE to GDP, at current prices	4.6%
Out-of-pocket payments, 2019	47.9% of CHE
Per capita current health expenditure in PPP, int\$ (2019)	USD 379

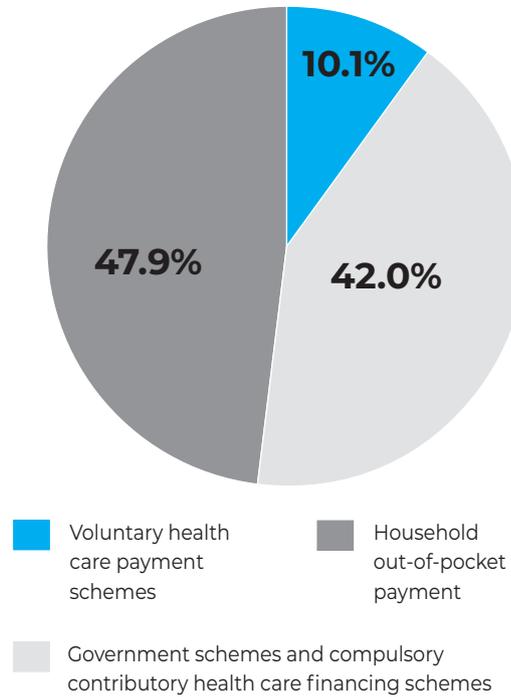
Source: Oral Health Country Profile, WHO/Health Care in The Philippines, Orange Health Consultants, Commissioned by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency, April 2021

Total Health Expenditure Growth Rates (in percent)



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Current Health Expenditure by Health Care Financing Scheme: 2019



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

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 www.tcsdentalinc.com

Philippines' Oral Health, In Demand for Better and Accessible Dental Services



Oral health is a part of overall health. However, not many Filipinos may consider it as a priority. Among the causes are the limited access to oral hygiene, expensive dentist fees and lack of awareness of importance of oral hygiene, resulting in the second worst rate of decayed, missing and filled teeth in Asia, next only to Brunei and far behind other countries in the Western Pacific Region.

Oral Health Workforce	Total number (2020)	Per 10 000 pop. (2014-2019)*
Dental assistants and therapists (also including dental hygienist and dental nurses)	246	0.0
Dental prosthetic technicians	682	0.1
Dentists	28,154	2.6

*Data source: The National Health Workforce Accounts (NHWA) data platform, WHO; 2020
Source: Oral Health Country Profile, WHO

Dental services are mainly provided in public health centers, hospitals and in schools. However, there is a shortage of dentists and dental services in many parts of the country. Studies conducted in the past decades have previously reported an alarming increase in dental caries prevalence. Sugary, carbo-loaded foods, and processed foods, coupled with the emotional stress during the pandemic, have caused the increased incidences of tooth decay or cavities. Moreover, the country's aging population, which accounts for 8.2%, has also contributed to the demand for better and more accessible dental services. The Philippines Department of Health (DOH), in its effort to reverse the trend, has initiated programs and projects to improve the oral health status of the country. Furthermore, periodic nationwide surveys have been conducted to provide reliable estimates of the oral

disease burden of the population and give dependable information on the trends and changing patterns of oral health in the country. The most recent survey, NMEDS 2011, has shown an encouraging decline in the prevalence of the two major oral diseases, dental caries, and periodontal disease. However, the prevalence rates remain alarming, at 87% for dental caries and 48% for periodontal disease. It is in this context that the National Assessment Survey on Oral Health* (NSOH) was conducted, in 2018, by the DOH-Disease Prevention and Control Bureau, in collaboration with the Asian Social Project Services, Inc. **The survey found that the overall prevalence of dental caries (primary and permanent dentition combined) is improved in the years but remains high at 73%, caries of primary dentition prevalence is also high at 83% of the population aged 5 and 12 years. About half of**

the study population is afflicted with a periodontal condition and about 42% of the respondents have never had a dental consult. The overall prevalence of untreated caries is 54.9%; they do not consult a dentist primarily due to financial constraints, fear, and busy schedule. Furthermore, there is a preference for public health dentists over private dental practitioners; of the respondents 56.4% consulted a Health Center Dentist, 33.9% a private dentist, 13% a Health Center Doctor while 5.2% other dental consultants, which include Government Hospital Dentists (2.8%), School Dentists (1.7%) and Medical Mission Dentists (0.7%). Promotion of dental health in the Philippines is mainly the domain of commercial enterprises that sell toothpaste and toothbrushes however the Government is implementing measure to improve the alarming oral health status of the country.

Prevalence (%) of Dental Caries by Age in the Philippines, 1982 -2018						
Age Group	1982	1987	1992	1998	2011	2018
5 Years	97.6	95.8	97.6	94.6	87.7	85.3
12 Years	93.8	95.5	98.1	94.9	75.6	68.2
15-19 Years	-	97.4	97.8	95.2	80.4	77.6
35-44 Years	76.4	82.6	65.7	90.5	94.9	76.0
65-74 Years	-	-	-	-	98.8	55.1
All Ages	96.6	97.5	98.2	96.1	87.4	72.6

Average DMFT among 12- and 35-44-Year-Olds in the Philippines, 1977 – 2018		
Year	Average DMFT	
	12 Years	35-44 Years
1977	2.96	10.41
1982	6.39	14.18
1987	5.52	14.82
1992	6.10	14.42
1998	4.58	15.04
2006	2.90	-
2011	3.25	12.93
2018	2.54	12.57

Source: 2018 NSOH*

Note*: NSOH 2018 (National Assessment Survey on Oral Health 2018, gathered oral assessment data from 4,419 respondents, covered 17 regions, 16 provinces, 16 highly urbanized cities/independent cities, 34 districts, 64 municipalities and component cities, and 208 barangays.



On this regard, the Philippine Department of Health released DepEd No. 041 or the Guidelines on the Implementation of School Dental Health Care Program, which includes distributing dental care supplies to children from kindergarten to grade 6 and applying fluoride varnish to all kindergarten and grade 3 students.

Encouraging news is the Philippines enacted Republic Act 11223, or the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act, which, contingent on adequate support and funding, aims to provide affordable, quality, and comprehensive health services to encourage Filipinos to obtain oral health services. **The Government implemented a sugar tax to discourage Filipinos from consuming sugary drinks and fund more oral care programs and infrastructure.** However, this has not been enough to encourage Filipinos to visit the dentist as services are still considered expensive.

Medical/Dental Device Industry

The Philippine medical and dental device industry is heavily reliant on

imported, high-quality equipment to address the increasing demand for services. **Currently, imported medical devices account for 99.2% with China, Singapore, Japan, the United States, Thailand, and Germany as top suppliers.** Chinese medical devices hold a significant share as their competitive prices and products are readily available. Local production is limited to hospital furniture and medical disposables. Public hospitals focus their efforts on preventive and primary care, while also taking the lead in educating the public on health issues. On the other hand, private hospitals focus on specialized care for cardiovascular diseases, cancer, pulmonology, and orthopedics. Increasing incidences of hypertension, diabetes, kidney disease, respiratory diseases, cancer, heart and lung problems, obesity, and malnutrition contribute to the strain on the Philippine healthcare system.

Dental tourism is becoming one of the most lucrative segments of Philippine medical tourism market. Prices for cosmetic dentistry and

other oral services, such as implants, crowns, and laser teeth whitening are about 30-90% less expensive compared to neighboring markets such as Malaysia and Thailand.

The Philippine healthcare system continues to grow many private equities, including Public-Private Partnerships, pursue investments, acquire smaller hospitals, and upgrade hospital infrastructure. Large hospital groups continue to drive hospital development throughout the country and provide capital to upgrade facilities and modernize equipment. The pandemic also allowed hospitals to upgrade and increase their facilities to cope with the situation. The COVID-19 pandemic created opportunities for health IT, specifically telemedicine. The Philippine Department of Health and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) released Joint Administrative Order 2021-002 or the Mandatory Adoption and Use of National Health Data Standards for Interoperability, which aims to establish the national health data standards, develop

5 P'S OF MEDICINE



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CLIMATE CHANGE

As humans continue to pump more carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, patterns of weather and water will change around the world. Droughts will become more common in some places, floods in others. Glaciers and snow will disappear in some areas, affecting the freshwater supplies to those downstream communities. These changes will combine to make less water available for agriculture, energy generation, cities, and ecosystems around the world.



The Power of WATER

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There's nothing more essential to life on earth than water. If you're among the 9 out of 10 people on the planet, who have clean water around the clock, and a few steps away from you, in your bathroom or kitchen, consider yourself lucky. Hundreds of millions of people are not so fortunate, and their families pay the price daily.

There's nothing more essential to life on earth than water. Water covers 70% of our planet, and it is easy to think that there will always be plenty of it. Yet, fresh water—to drink, cook, bathe in, irrigate our farm fields with—is incredibly rare: only 3% of the world's water is fresh water, and two-thirds of that is found in frozen glaciers or otherwise unavailable for our use. As a result, over two billion people live in countries where water supply is inadequate and far too many people are dying of entirely preventable diseases because they lack access to safe water.

771 million people lack access to safe, clean, water. That's 1 in 10 people on the planet. 4 billion experience water scarcity for at least one month each year. Inadequate sanitation is also a problem. 1.7 billion people – 1 in 4 – lack access to a toilet. And things aren't getting better. On the contrary, water scarcity is getting worse due to the catastrophic effects of climate change, as well as the bad management of it.

Since 1993, the United Nations recognizes the importance of addressing the global water crisis on World Water Day, which falls on March 22, each year. Since then, progress has been made in making clean water accessible — the number of people who lack access to clean water decreased from 1.1 billion in 2000 to 771 million in 2020.

Yet, we are, right now, in the middle of a serious global water crisis, needing imminent action, as many of the water systems that keep ecosystems thriving and feed a growing human population have become stressed. Rivers, lakes, and aquifers are dry-

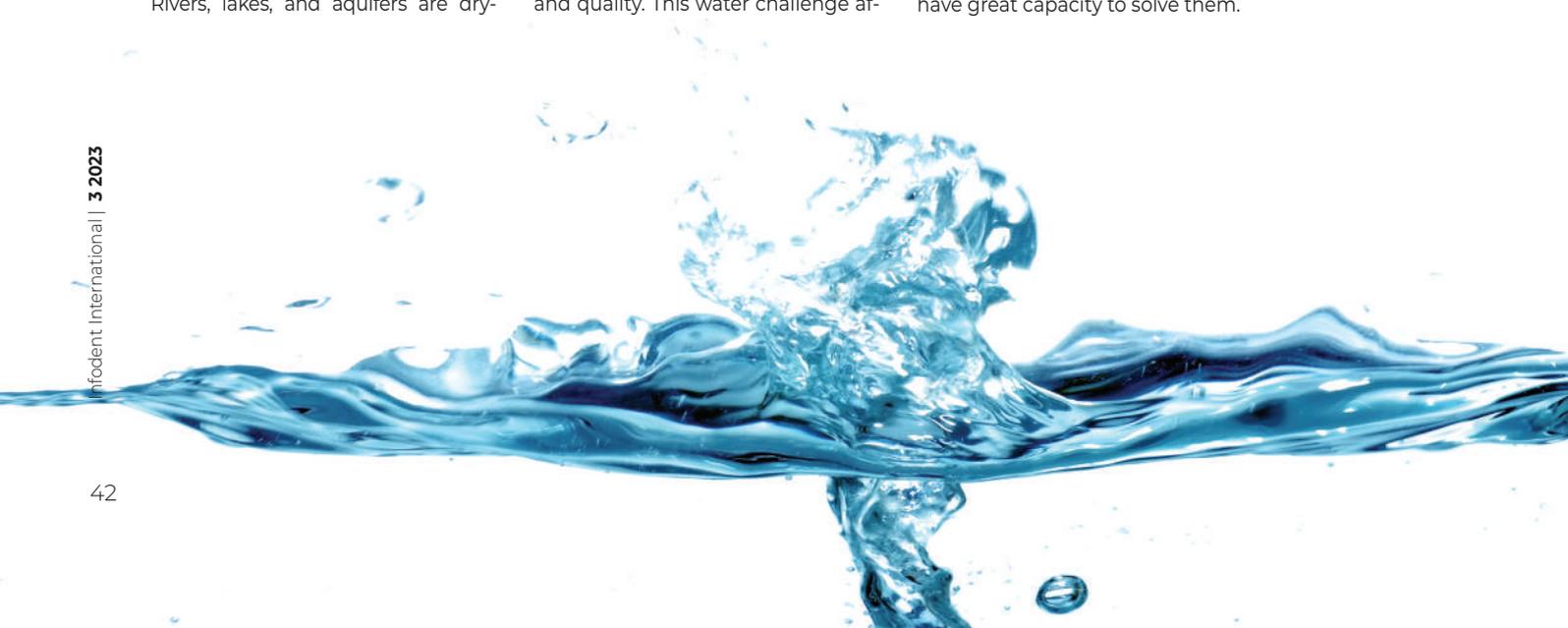
ing up or becoming too polluted to use. More than half the world's wetlands have disappeared. Agriculture consumes more water than any other source and wastes much of that through inefficiencies. Climate change is altering patterns of weather and water around the world, causing shortages and droughts in some areas and floods in others. At the current consumption rate, this situation will only get worse. And ecosystems around the world will suffer even more. **By 2025, half of the world's population is projected to live in areas where obtaining safe water is difficult if not impossible, with people living in poverty feeling it first and worst.**

Water connects every aspect of life. Dysfunction throughout the water cycle is undermining progress on all major global issues, from health to hunger, gender equality to jobs, education to industry, disasters to peace. **Back in 2015, the U.N. member states committed to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, as part of the 2030 Agenda, with the promise that everyone would have safely managed water and sanitation by 2030. Right now, we are seriously off-track.** Billions of people and countless schools, businesses, healthcare centers, farms and factories are being held back because their human rights to water and sanitation have not yet been fulfilled. Nonetheless, correcting measures can still be taken to avoid the crisis to be worsening. There is increasing awareness that our freshwater resources are limited and need to be protected both in terms of quantity and quality. This water challenge af-

” There is a water crisis today. But the crisis is not about having too little water to satisfy our needs. It is a crisis of managing water so badly that billions of people – and the environment – suffer badly.”
– World Water Vision Report

fects not only the water community, but also decision-makers and every human being.

Whatever the use of freshwater (agriculture, industry, domestic use), huge saving of water and improving of water management is possible. Almost everywhere, water is wasted, and as long as people are not facing water scarcity, they believe access to water is an obvious and natural thing. With urbanization and changes in lifestyle, water consumption is bound to increase. You and your family, businesses, schools, and communities can make a difference by changing the way you use, consume, and manage water in your lives. A lot of people believe problems like the water crisis are so big that they are permanent parts of life on this planet. They are not. The crisis is solvable, but right now! Many great global challenges are more solvable than we think—if we seek to empower the people who are facing those challenges and who have great capacity to solve them.

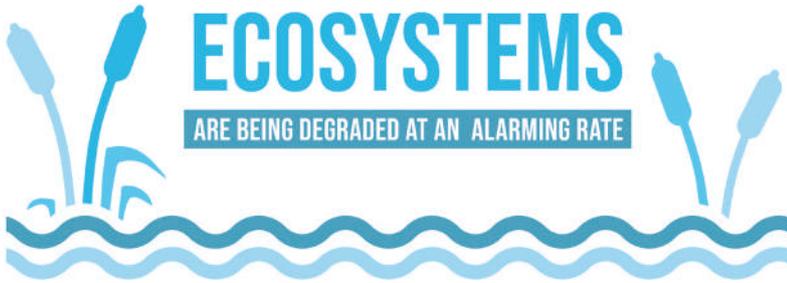




ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

THE WORLD'S WATER-RELATED ECOSYSTEMS

ARE BEING DEGRADED AT AN ALARMING RATE



OVER THE PAST 300 YEARS,

OVER 85%

OF THE PLANET'S WETLANDS
HAVE BEEN **LOST**



FOR AT LEAST
3 BILLION PEOPLE,

THE QUALITY OF THE WATER
THEY DEPEND ON IS
UNKNOWN DUE TO A LACK
OF MONITORING

733+ MILLION PEOPLE



LIVE IN COUNTRIES
WITH HIGH AND
CRITICAL LEVELS
OF WATER STRESS
(2019)

MEETING **DRINKING WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE** TARGETS
BY 2030 REQUIRES A **4X** INCREASE IN THE PACE OF PROGRESS

AT CURRENT RATES, IN 2030



1.6 BILLION PEOPLE

WILL LACK
SAFELY MANAGED
DRINKING WATER



2.8 BILLION PEOPLE

WILL LACK
SAFELY MANAGED
SANITATION



1.9 BILLION PEOPLE

WILL LACK BASIC
HAND HYGIENE
FACILITIES



ONLY ONE QUARTER

OF REPORTING COUNTRIES
HAVE **>90%** OF THEIR
TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS
COVERED BY **OPERATIONAL**
ARRANGEMENTS (2020)

For millions of women, children, and communities, access to safe water can turn problems into potential – unlocking education, economic opportunity and improved health.”

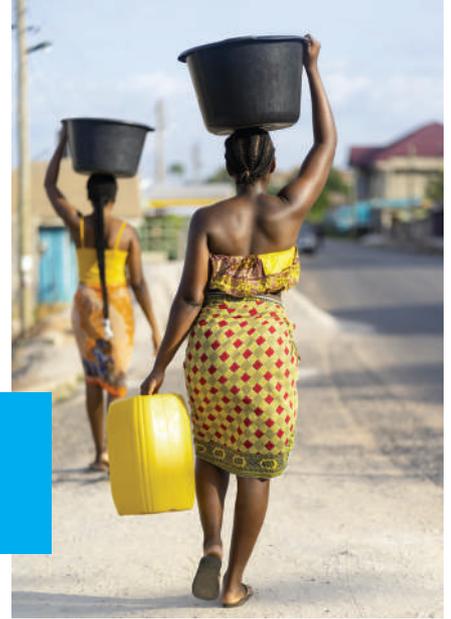
- water.org

200 M

A GENDER EQUALITY CRISIS

Women and girls bear the greatest burden of the global water crisis because in the developing world they're most likely to be responsible for collecting water. In rural Africa, the average woman or girl walks 6 kilometers — 3.7 miles — to carry 40 pounds of water every day. This takes time away from work, school and caring for family affecting their ability to study, work, and live with dignity, locking women in a cycle of poverty.

Women and girls spend an estimated 200 million hours every day collecting water



2 MIN

Every 2 minutes a child dies from a water-related disease

A HEALTH CRISIS

Nearly 1 million people die each year from water, sanitation, and hygiene-related diseases, such as diarrheal, cholera, typhoid fever, and other water-borne illnesses. Access to safe water and sanitation contributes to improved health and helps prevent the spread of infectious disease. It means reduced child and maternal mortality rates. It means reduced physical injury from constant lifting and carrying heavy loads of water long distances. It means making women and girls less exposed to abuse, attack, and ill-health. In some underdeveloped areas half of the health clinics don't have clean water and 84% don't even have basic hand-washing facilities.

494 million people practice open defecation



AN ECONOMIC CRISIS

Time spent gathering water or seeking safe sanitation accounts for billions in lost economic opportunities. \$260 billion is lost globally each year due to lack of basic water and sanitation. Access to safe water and sanitation at home makes families spend less money on healthcare and turns time spent into time saved, giving families more time to pursue education and work opportunities that will help them break the cycle of poverty. Empowering women is critical to solving the water crisis. When women have access to safe water at home, they can pursue more beyond water collection and their traditional roles. They have time to work and add to their household income.

\$260 billion is lost globally each year due to lack of basic water and sanitation

\$260
billion



\$18.5
billion

Universal access to basic water and sanitation would result in \$18.5 billion in economic benefits each year from avoided deaths alone.

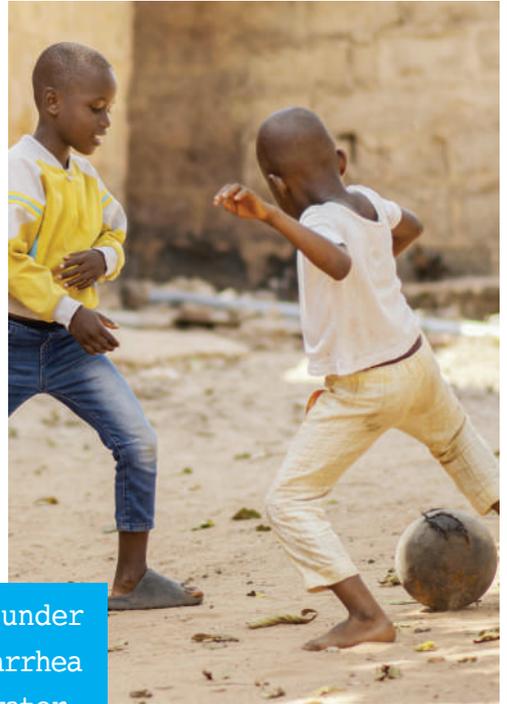


3rd

leading cause of child death is diarrhea

A CHILDREN'S AND EDUCATION CRISIS

When children don't have to walk long distances to get water, they have more time to play, to attend school, and more energy to learn. It gives them an opportunity for a brighter future. This is especially important for girls, who most often spend their days collecting water for their families instead of focusing on school. Clean water, sanitation, and hygiene help kids grow taller, smarter, and stronger. They get more nutrition from their food because they're not sick. Families can use water to irrigate their gardens to grow more nutritious food year-round.



More than **800** children

More than 800 children under 5 die every day from diarrhea caused by contaminated water, poor sanitation, and unsafe hygiene practices.

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By **2023**,
 some
700 million
people
 could be displaced
 by intense water
 scarcity

A CLIMATE CRISIS

Water is the primary way in which we will feel many of the effects of climate change, and climate change is exacerbating the global water crisis. Millions of families in poverty live in regions where water access is limited, temporary, or unstable. They are less prepared to face the effects of climate change like temperature extremes, floods, and droughts. Access to sustainable safe water and improved sanitation solutions can support climate resiliency for the people who need it the most. Farmers who depend on their crops or livestock to survive may be unable to purchase land in a new place, closer to where there is water. So, moving isn't an option for them.

By **2040**,
 roughly
1 in 4
children
 worldwide will be living
 in areas of extremely
 high water stress

Play your part by doing what you can!
BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE WORLD

THERE IS AN ANCIENT STORY* OF A HUMMINGBIRD AND IT IS ABOUT HOW WE REACT TO CRISIS. RIGHT NOW, WE FACE A WATER AND SANITATION CRISIS. DO WE STAND AND STARE? OR, DO WE ACT?



**One day in the forest, a fire broke out.
 All the animals ran for their lives.
 They stood at the edge of the blaze, looking at the flames in terror and sadness.
 Up above their heads, a hummingbird was flying back and forth to the fire,
 over and over again.
 The bigger animals asked the hummingbird what she was doing.
 "I am flying to the lake to get water to help put out the fire!"
 The animals laughed at her and said, "You can't put out this fire!"
 The hummingbird replied, "I'm doing what I can!"*

THE HUMMINGBIRD IS HELPING SOLVE THE PROBLEM, ONE DROP AT A TIME. SHE IS BEING THE CHANGE SHE WANTS TO SEE IN THE WORLD. YOU CAN BE A HUMMINGBIRD, TOO. THE ACTIONS YOU TAKE, NO MATTER HOW SMALL, WILL HELP SOLVE THE WATER CRISIS.

**SEE WHAT PEOPLE ARE DOING
 IN YOUR REGION
 AND CHOOSE YOUR ACTIONS!**

www.worldwaterday.org



Among Main Sources:
 Most of the sources cited are humanitarian organizations that you can refer to if you'd like to contribute to the crisis:
 -water.org - <https://water.org/our-impact/water-crisis/>
 -World Vision - <https://www.worldvision.org/clean-water-news-stories/global-water-crisis-facts>
 -UNICEF - <https://www.unicef.org/wash/water-scarcity>
 -WWF - <https://www.worldwildlife.org/threats/water-scarcity>
 -The United Nations - <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal6>
 -<https://www.worldwaterday.org/>
 -<https://fortune.com/2023/03/22/climate-change-exacerbating-global-water-crisis-corporations-solution-hurst-white-damon/>
 -<https://www.worldwatercouncil.org/en/water-crisis>
 - <https://www.euronews.com/green/2023/03/08/clean-water-shortages-steal-womens-time-heres-what-happens-when-they-get-it-back>

Oral Reconstruction Global Symposium 2023

May 18 to 20, 2023 Rome, Italy



” In a world increasingly driven by technology, what links great dental practitioners and will continue to be a defining quality of great dentists in the future is the ability to establish caring human connections.

“QUO VADIS IMPLANT DENTISTRY?” – MANY WAYS LEAD TO ROME

The Oral Reconstruction (OR) Global Symposium themed “Quo Vadis Implant Dentistry”, held from May 18 to 20, 2023 in Rome was visited by around 1,000 participants from 42 countries. 55 top international

speakers lectured under the auspices of the Oral Reconstruction Foundation (OR Foundation), headed by the Foundation President and Congress Chair, Dr. Luca Cordaro, MD, DDS, PhD, Head Department of Periodontics and Prosthodontics, Policlinico Umberto I, Eastman Dental Hospital, Rome.

High-tech meets history

The Auditorium Parco della Musica, where the congress was held, is an impressive venue reminiscent of Roman architecture and full of history, with its museums and steep stony stairways – not the typical congress venue. However, it enchanted its participants and stood in contrast



From left to right: Martin Schuler (Executive Director of the OR Foundation), Prof. Luca Cordaro, President of the ORF and Congress Chair), Fernando Guerra (University of Coimbra, Award Committee), Florian Kernen (Winner of the Research Award), João Pitta and Ana Torres (Award Committee).

” The Oral Reconstruction Foundation is a great example of an organization where specialists come together to exchange best practices and form connections that last a lifetime.

to the high-tech treatment methods and cutting-edge research topics presented by some of the world's leading experts. Not surprisingly, attendees rewarded the organizers with full ranks during all three days of the event. Even the pre-symposium entitled 'technology helps the clinic' with eight scientific lectures and five workshops attracted more than 500 participants.

Technology driven by the human touch

In a world increasingly driven by technology, what links great dental practitioners and will continue to be a defining quality of great dentists in the future is the ability to establish caring human connections. In this spirit, Dr. Luca Cordaro and the Past President Prof. Mariano Sanz welcomed all participants very warmly and made everybody feel at home in Rome during the entire congress. The congress was rounded off by a lively networking opportunity, attended by more than 700 participants, at Villa Miani high above the roofs of Rome with wonderful views.

The Oral Reconstruction Foundation is a great example of an organization where specialists come together to exchange best practices and form connections that last a lifetime. Just to name one anecdote: when all flights to Rome were cancelled on Friday due to a strike at the airport, one speaker drove all the way from Germany by car – 15 hours in total – to make it in time to give his lecture.

The main program on Friday and Saturday was divided into eight sessions. Topics discussed included different options for hard and soft tissue augmentation, including Guided Bone Regeneration with blocks, shells, or computer-assisted bone augmentation. The speakers examined questions related to bone and soft tissue healing around implants and reviewed options in the treatment of gingival recession. Another focus was



on the use of autologous bone or allogeneic, xenogeneic, or synthetic bone graft substitutes, membranes, and soft tissue matrices. There were heated discussions of the question of when the right time for implant placement is and what the advantages of digitization are.

The Future of implant dentistry in the hands of promising youngsters

Two program items were dedicated to young and upcoming specialists. These researchers represent the next generation and they are the future of a thriving network, the OR Foundation. At the Science Slam on Friday, six young researchers presented their posters during a two-minute oral pitch. The three best presentations were selected by the audience, and the overall winner was Dr. Rodolfo Reda, Università Sapienza, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial sciences, Rome. The Oral Reconstruction Foundation Research Award on Saturday was won by Dr. Florian Kernen, Junior Professor for Virtual Implantology, Medical Faculty, Albert-Ludwigs-University of Freiburg, Germany. The Award Committee with Prof. Fernando Guerra, Dr. Ana Torres and João

Pitta chose Florian Kernen for his outstanding research on "In vivo precision of intraoral scanners". Florian Kernen is a member of the Team of Prof. Katja Nelson, moderator of the opening session and speaker at the pre-symposium.

The symposium was supported by BioHorizons Camlog, founding sponsor of the OR Foundation.

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FREE Pre-Registration Now Open For the 2023 Greater NY Dental Meeting

Symposium, 3D Printing & Digital Dentistry Conference, Public Health Symposium, Oral Cancer Symposium, Special Care Dentistry Forum, Women Dentists Leadership Conference and the GNYDM Lab Symposium. The Specialty Meetings each continue to increase attendance and revenue for the GNYDM, as they welcome world-renowned clinicians to New York City. Seminars and hands-on workshops are offered daily.

2023 GNYDM Highlights:

- **The Annual Pediatric Dentistry Summit:** These daily programs benefit both pediatric dentists and general dentists. Learn new techniques and refresh your approach to the treatment of your young patients.
- **World Implant EXPO:** The GNYDM continues its WIE to facilitate the education of dental professionals in all aspects of Implantology. The exhibit floor will be expanded to include the sale of implants, associated materials, and technology solutions.
- **Global Orthodontic Conference** will include companies involved with orthodontic products, technology, materials and equipment as well as incorporate a full educational program for specialists and general practitioners focused on orthodontics.
- **Standard Proficiency Laser Seminar & Workshop** is a 6-hour didactic laser competency course. Learn a comprehensive overview and a basic understanding of the Diode dental laser. This program satisfies the Academy of Laser Dentistry's basic competency course. Offered Tuesday, Nov. 28th from 9:45-5PM.

- **Sleep Apnea Symposium:** Learn how to establish Dental Sleep Medicine protocols in your practice, identify patients at risk, integrate medical practice systems and treat patients successfully.
- **Dental Laboratory Education** presented for the Laboratory Technician with specialized education, demonstrations, digital dentistry and technology for technicians and dentists' in a side-by-side integrated, hands-on experience.
- **Technology Education** includes CAD/CAM, Cone Beam and Lasers with sessions of education daily.
- **Pre-Dental Conference** is on Sunday, Nov. 26th offering a unique networking experience between prospective Dental Students and Admissions' personnel.
- **New Dentist's Program** focuses on start-up strategies and pathways to practice ownership for the new dentist. The Specialized New Dentist Program is designed for those who graduated in the last 10 years.
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In addition, earn FREE certified education credits by attending the Scientific Poster session and Residency Fair on Sunday, November 26. In 2022, the GNYDM registered a total of **23,539** attendees, including **9,692** dentists, **1,213** Dental Students, **1,253** Dental Assistants, and **1,565** Dental Hygienists. The GNYDM continues to be the largest face-to-face Dental Convention and Event in the United States.

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IDEX Istanbul, the world's second-largest exhibition, broke its own records once again in 2023!



The dental industry's meeting point, IDEX Istanbul Dental Equipment and Materials Exhibition, reached a record-breaking trade volume exceeding \$250 million. The number of visitors to the exhibition also surpassed 85,000.

IDEX Istanbul, one of the largest gatherings in the global oral and dental health sector, set a new record by generating a business volume of over \$300 million. The Exhibition's other record was in the number of visitors. IDEX Istanbul, hosting visitors from all around the world, welcomed 28,460 foreign visitors, totaling 87,570 professional buyers. With these numbers, the exhibition once again broke its own record, becoming the most productive trade platform of the year. The 18th edition of the Istanbul Dental Equipment and Materials Exhibition, IDEX Istanbul, hosted over 350 buying groups from nearly 100 countries, including Europe, Africa, the Balkans, Gulf countries, the Commonwealth of Independent States, and the Middle East.

Another notable aspect of IDEX Istanbul was the participation of foreign exhibitors. 102 foreign exhibitors from 20 different countries, more than 500 exhibitors in total, participated in the fair, which took place on 25-28 May 2023. With over 4,000 brands showcasing their state-of-the-art products at IDEX Istanbul, the realization of visitor and trade records once again proved that the success of IDEX Istanbul is not a coincidence.

Symposiums and courses received great interest from visitors

IDEX Istanbul also organized symposiums and hands-on courses where internationally renowned local and foreign academics were invited to discuss the past, present, and future of the industry. Innovations and developments in oral and dental health were practically addressed in the symposium and course programs. Over four days, more than 80 education sessions were held in a 350-person symposium hall and five different course halls, where the world's

leading academicians and experts provided information about industry innovations to industry professionals and students.

Countdown begins for IDEX Istanbul 2024!

IDEX Istanbul, designed with a brand new vision in 2024, will be the largest event ever organized for the oral and dental health sector, as acknowledged by both exhibitors and visitors. Considering the foreign visitors and buying delegations, IDEX 2024 will be the international exhibition that provides the highest foreign currency inflow to our country. Organized by the Dental Materials Industrialists and Businessmen Association (DISSIAD), a sector association, and its subsidiary DISSIAD Exhibition Organization Company, the IDEX Istanbul Dental Equipment Exhibition will take place at Istanbul Exhibition Center from May 8 to 11, 2024. The Exhibition will also bring vitality to the Oral and Dental Health sector with over 80 conferences and courses conducted during the event.





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Dental Care for Street Children in the Philippines

Ensure the viability of a dental clinic and the quality of care given to children

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The Air Liquide Foundation is helping the Virlanie Foundation, an organization that helps abandoned, exploited, and orphaned street children in the Philippines. The association has created a dental health clinic in Metro Manila to complete its health programs for the most disadvantaged children.

The children who benefit from Virlanie's programs come from the streets, landfills or extremely poor urban areas and suffer from all types of oral diseases, including cavities and mouth infections. These illnesses are expensive to treat, not to mention painful with long-term effects on health and well-being. Yet they are usually treatable and preventable.

For over 10 years, Virlanie and its partner, the French Association for Oral Implantology and Periodontology, have organized short-term campaigns to provide basic dental care to street children by going to them with portable medical equipment loaned by the partner.

In 2017, inspired by the results of its children's health missions, Virlanie created a permanent dental clinic to serve more patients and extend the impact of its activities. This is what prompted Virlanie to seek aid



from the Air Liquide Foundation to permanently acquire the medical equipment needed to care for the children's oral diseases. Two dentists and one dental assistant see an average of eight patients per day to treat cavities and all other oral diseases.

Their goals are to:

- **Reduce the occurrence of cavities, other diseases and related pathologies**

- **Restore damaged or missing teeth**
- **Offer ongoing dental care and prevent recurrence thanks to regular appointments**

Each year this program benefits 200 children from the organization's shelter and 400 children from the marginalized communities served by Virlanie.



The Fondation Air Liquide supports research, jobs-integration, and solidarity projects. It draws on the expertise and geographical presence of the Air Liquide Group. With its track record, adaptability, and early-stage positioning on projects, it is an effective complement to public intervention.

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Virlanie Foundation began its mission in 1987, when Dominique Lemay first set foot in the Philippines. By 2023, Virlanie provides the most disadvantaged children with a caring family environment, opportunities for their healing and development through a multi-disciplinary approach, and in collaboration with all stakeholders, so they can reach their full potential and mainstream to society.

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Trimestrale di informazione tecnico-scientifica
anno XX - numero 83 – agosto / ottobre 2023
Registrazione al Tribunale di Viterbo
VG98/02 aut. trib. VT n°496 del 16/02/2002

Editorial Director: Silvia Borriello

Newsroom: Nadia Coletta, Manuela Ghirardi, Claudia Proietti Ragonesi



Infodent s.r.l.
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Printer: Graffietti Stampati s.n.c.
Strada Umbro Casentinese Km 4,500
01027 Montefiascon e (VT)

Spedizione in Italia: Poste Italiane s.p.a.
PP Economy – DCO/DCVT/N° 5 fb del 24/05/2002
Spedizione in A. P.— art.1 D.L. 353/2003 Conv. In L. n. 46/04-CDSUVT G. C.

Spedizione all'estero: IFS Italy s.r.l.
Viale dell'Industria, 58/A 20037 Paderno Dugnano (MI)
P.IVA: IT08577970968
Licenza Postale Generale n.3502/2014 rilasciata dal Ministero dello Sviluppo Economico

Questo numero è stato chiuso in tipografia il: 19/07/2023

Costo copia 0.77

ISSN 2785-4108



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ANES ASSOCIAZIONE NAZIONALE EDITORIA DI SETTORE
Aderente a: Confindustria Cultura Italia

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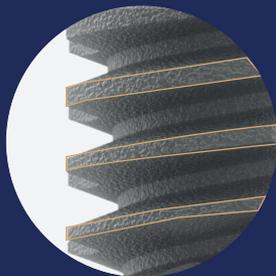
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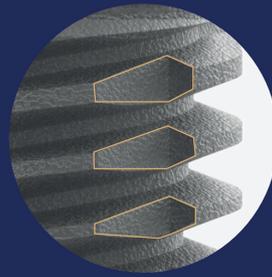
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