



# Uniting to End Cervical Cancer

**Every 2 minutes a woman dies of cervical cancer.<sup>i</sup>**

In 2018, the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) called for the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem. The resulting global strategy adopted by governments in July 2020 outlines three key interventions and clear 2030 targets that provide a roadmap to achieve one common goal: the elimination of cervical cancer within the lifetime of today's youngest girls.<sup>ii</sup>

## 1 Goal. 3 Strategies. | The Path to Cervical Cancer Elimination



### HPV Vaccination

***At least 90% of girls fully vaccinated by the age of 15***

HPV vaccine is safe and our most cost-effective tool, protecting against at least 70% of cervical cancers.<sup>iii</sup> We must increase awareness and education, address cultural sensitivities, and ensure it is included in routine immunization programs to protect all girls.



### Screening and Treatment of Precancerous Lesions

***At least 70% of women screened with a high-performance test by the age of 35, and again by 45, and 90% of women with precancerous lesions treated***

Early detection, diagnosis, and prompt treatment of precancerous lesions are crucial to driving down incidence of cervical cancer. By strengthening integrations across the health system, we can maximize efficiencies at the health system and improve referral systems.



### Treatment and Palliative Care of Invasive Cancers

***At least 90% of women with identified cervical disease treated***

By ensuring the availability of and access to quality, affordable treatment and palliative care, paired with greater social support services for women and their families, we can help slow the progression of cervical cancer and protect the quality and dignity of life for women living with the disease.

## WHY CERVICAL CANCER?

**Cervical cancer is preventable and treatable, yet it kills over 300,000 women every year.<sup>iv</sup>**

Concerningly, significant disparities exist: over 90% of these deaths are in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), robbing families of mothers, daughters, sisters, and grandmothers, impacting communities and threatening the social and economic fabric of society.<sup>v</sup> But now, for the first time in history, elimination is within sight.

## WHY NOW?

Without concerted action, cervical cancer deaths will rise almost **50% by 2030.**<sup>ix</sup> HPV vaccination and screening are WHO "best buy" interventions for cervical cancer,<sup>vi</sup> yet for too many, they remain out of reach. Vaccination commitments—including GAVI's 2020 funding replenishment and HPV vaccine manufacturers' pledges—are helping to keep cervical cancer elimination a priority, but we can't overlook screening and treatment targets. Investing in the WHO's global strategy now could save over **62 million** lives and prevent **74 million** cases of cervical cancer within the next 100 years.<sup>vii</sup> In economic terms, this investment could allow **250,000** women to remain productive members of society, adding **\$28 billion** to the global economy through 2050.<sup>viii</sup>



As of 2020, less than 25% of low-income countries and less than 30% of middle-income countries have introduced HPV vaccination into their national immunization agenda.<sup>viii</sup>



Globally, only 15% of vaccine age-eligible girls are fully vaccinated against HPV.<sup>ii</sup>



In LMICs, less than 20% of women have been screened for cervical cancer, compared with 60% in high-income countries.<sup>ix</sup>



90% of women who die from cervical cancer have poor access to prevention, screening, treatment, and care.<sup>x</sup>

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION TODAY

1

Pledge your commitment to implement the WHO global strategy, setting interim progress targets across vaccination, screening and treatment efforts, to monitor and report against in 2022.

2

Keep cervical cancer elimination high on the agenda; ensure its prevention is included in primary health care programs as part of universal health coverage (UHC) and a commitment to UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as in national cancer plans.

3

Ensure continuation of cervical cancer prevention, screening and treatment services during and post-COVID-19, in response to WHO/GAVI guidance.

4

Foster targeted community action to identify and overcome barriers to accessing these services.

## About Cervical Cancer Action for Elimination

Cervical Cancer Action for Elimination (CCAIE) is a network of organizations working together to accelerate global progress towards a world free from cervical cancer. CCAIE builds connections and synergies between organizations advocating for cervical cancer elimination. It also provides a forum for sharing information and resources, as well as amplifying the work of civil society and its shared messaging across the world.

i WHO leads the way towards the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health concern. (2018, September 26). Retrieved June 24, 2020, from <https://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/cervical-cancer-public-health-concern/en/>

ii Progress and Challenges with Achieving Universal ... (2020, July 15). Retrieved August 13, 2020, from [https://www.who.int/immunization/monitoring\\_surveillance/who-immuniz.pdf?ua=1](https://www.who.int/immunization/monitoring_surveillance/who-immuniz.pdf?ua=1)

iii Human papillomavirus (HPV) and cervical cancer. (2019, January 24). Retrieved June 17, 2020, from [https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/human-papillomavirus-\(hpv\)-and-cervical-cancer](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/human-papillomavirus-(hpv)-and-cervical-cancer)

iv Cervical cancer. (n.d.). Retrieved June 18, 2020, from <http://www.who.int/health-topics/cervical-cancer>

v Cubie, H. A., & Campbell, C. (2020). Cervical cancer screening – The challenges of complete pathways of care in low-income countries: Focus on Malawi. *Women's Health*, 16, 174550652091480. doi:10.1177/1745506520914804

vi Cervical cancer prevention and control saves lives in the Republic of Korea. (2018, February 05). Retrieved July 01, 2020, from <http://origin.who.int/features/2018/cervical-cancer-republic-of-korea/en/>

vii To eliminate cervical cancer in the next 100 years, implementing an effective strategy is critical. (2020, February 4). Retrieved June 24, 2020, from <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/04-02-2020-to-eliminate-cervical-cancer-in-the-next-100-years>

viii Draft: Global strategy towards eliminating cervical cancer as a public health problem. April 2020. [https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/cervical-cancer/cervical-cancer-elimination-strategy-updated-11-may-2020.pdf?sfvrsn=b8690d1a\\_4](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/cervical-cancer/cervical-cancer-elimination-strategy-updated-11-may-2020.pdf?sfvrsn=b8690d1a_4)

ix Impact of HPV vaccination and cervical screening on ... (2020, February 22). Retrieved June 23, 2020, from [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)30068-4/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)30068-4/fulltext)

x Cervical Cancer. (2019, January 28). Retrieved June 17, 2020, from <https://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/cancers/cervical-cancer-infographics/en/>