

Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control

PROVIDING EARLY DETECTION AND TREATMENT IN TANZANIA

FUNDING LEVEL

\$248 Thousand • 2011 – Present

DONORS

IZUMI Foundation, American Baptist Churches (USA, Week of Compassion, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

PARTNERS

Shirati KMT Hospital, Musoma Regional Hospital

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Between August 2011 and September 2014, IMA screened 11,683 women between 30 and 40 years.

- Total screened that were VIA positive: 729 (6.2%)
- Total screened that were HIV positive: 2,129 (18.2%)
- Total that were VIA positive that received cryotherapy: 647 (89%)
- Total suspect of having pre-cancerous lesions: 115
- Total with a breast lump: 37

In addition:

- Trained 34 health care workers in screening techniques using the VIA approach and providing early diagnosis and cryotherapy treatment.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, developed national information, education, and communication (IEC) materials to raise community awareness about the importance of screening and early treatment.
- Built a cancer database allowing doctors to know which women have been screened and treated for cervical cancer at their facilities.
- Advocating for breast cancer checks that resulted in 37 referrals for further breast cancer testing and treatment.

BACKGROUND

Cervical cancer, already a threat in Tanzania, is projected to become even more entrenched over the next decade. Globally, deaths will likely increase 25 percent during the next 10 years, according to the World Health Organization. For Tanzania, the rate of cervical cancer is already among the world's highest – 50 percent higher than all of East Africa, and nine times higher than North America and Europe. Fortunately, if caught in its early stages, cervical cancer is nearly 100 percent curable.



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PROJECT APPROACH

IMA World Health (IMA) is working to prevent and treat cervical cancer in Tanzania; specifically promoting early detection. Targeting an area with significant need, IMA selected the northern Mara region to address cervical cancer where HIV prevalence rose from 3.5% in 2003-2004 to 5.2% in 2012-2013. Being HIV positive increases the risk of developing cervical cancer by at least 50%, and hastens onset of the disease by as much as 10 years.

Program objectives include:

- Develop materials and conduct community awareness activities on the importance of screening and early detection
- Train health workers on proper screening techniques
- Provide essential equipment and screening supplies to partner facilities
- Conduct cervical cancer screenings using the visual inspection with acetic acid (VIA) approach and provide cryotherapy treatment on the same day, as well as breast cancer screenings
- Provide referrals and counseling as necessary