

Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control

PROVIDING EARLY DETECTION AND TREATMENT IN TANZANIA

FUNDING LEVEL

\$600,000 • 2011 – 2015

DONOR

US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

IZUMI Foundation

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Week of Compassion

American Baptist Churches USA

PARTNERS

Shirati KMT Hospital, Musoma Regional Hospital

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.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Between August 2011 and September 2015, IMA screened 19,964 women between 30 and 40 years.

- Total with positive VIA results: 1,176 (5.9 percent)
- Total screened that were HIV positive: 4,106 (20.8 percent)
- Total with positive VIA results who received cryotherapy: 1,078 (92 percent)
- Total suspected of having pre-cancerous lesions: 186
- Total with a breast lump: 111

In addition:

- Trained 76 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



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communication 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.

PROJECT APPROACH

IMA's work to prevent and treat cervical cancer in the Mara and Mwanza districts of Tanzania has focused on early detection. As HIV increases the risk of developing cervical cancer by at least 50 percent and hastens onset of the disease by as much as 10 years, IMA targeted the northern region of Mara in particular, where HIV incidence has risen significantly in recent years.

Program objectives include:

- 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 approach and provide cryotherapy treatment on the same day, as well as breast cancer screenings
- Provide referrals and counseling as necessary