



Cervical cancer is the number one cancer killer of women in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), with roughly 100,000 women diagnosed annually; of these women, about 62% will die from the disease. Women living with HIV (WLHIV) are up to five times more likely to develop persistent precancerous lesions and progress to cervical cancer, often with more aggressive form and higher mortality.

Launched in May 2018 to address this challenge, Go Further is an innovative public-private partnership between the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the George W. Bush Institute, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), and Merck. The partnership collaborates closely with governments to strategize on ways to provide services for women from prevention through the cancer journey. Go Further began working in eight countries (Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe), and will expand services to four additional countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda) in fiscal year (FY) 2021. The objectives are to screen all WLHIV on ART between the ages of 25 and 49 for cervical cancer, and to treat pre-invasive cervical cancer lesions to prevent progression to cervical cancer.

## Lesotho Program Highlights

Lesotho	Funding Amount	WLHIV on Treatment*	Cervical Cancer Screening Target
FY19	\$3,190,720	75,000	37,500
FY20	\$1,137,155	92,052	46,048
FY21	\$1,000,000	95,756	60,063

\* For FY19, this is the number of women aged 30+ estimated to be on treatment; otherwise, this is women aged 25-49 on treatment at the end of FYs 18 and 19, respectively. (Source: PEPFAR Panorama Spotlight)

## Country Context

Total Population  
(July 2020 est.)  
(World Factbook)

**1,969,334**

Women Aged 15-49  
HIV Prevalence Rate  
(UNAIDS 2019)

**28.8%**

Age-standardized  
Incidence Rate (per 100,000) of  
Cervical Cancer Cases  
Attributable to HPV  
(Estimates for 2018)  
(HPV Information Center)

**52.1**

Total # of Women  
(All Ages) On ART  
(PEPFAR, FY20 Q2)

**149,982**

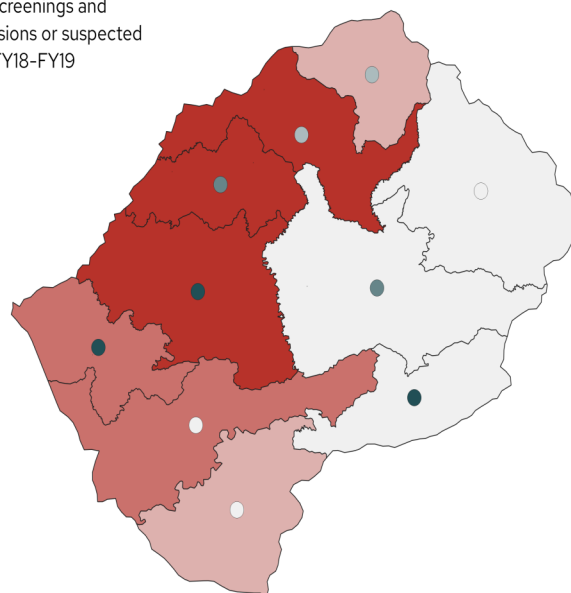
Lesotho: Cervical cancer screenings and positives (precancerous lesions or suspected invasive cervical cancer), FY18-FY19

Percent of WLHIV on ART (15+) who were screened and received results positive for precancerous lesions or positive for suspected invasive cervical cancer

4% - 5%  
5% - 9%  
9% - 13%  
13% - 16%

WLHIV (15+) on ART screened for cervical cancer

81 - 965  
965 - 1,111  
1,111 - 2,446  
2,446 - 11,880



Source: PEPFAR Panorama Spotlight, data.pepfar.gov

## RESULTS SUMMARY

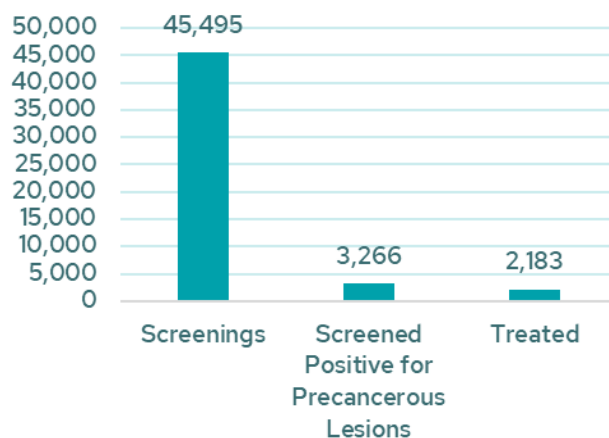
- ◆ In FY20: 18,095 screenings were done, representing 39% of the FY20 target, and 81% of women who screened positive for precancerous lesions were treated.
- ◆ Since FY18: 1,223 women have screened positive for suspected invasive cervical cancer. Of the 45,495 screenings, 41,182 (90.5%) were first time screenings, 527 (1.2%) were follow-up screenings, and 3,786 (8.3%) were re-screens.

## Strategic Direction for FY21

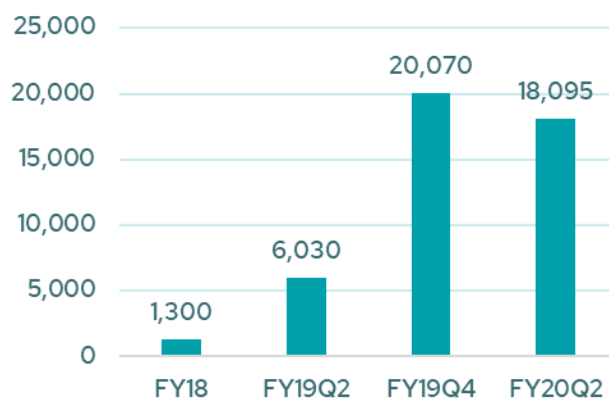
- ◆ The PEPFAR Lesotho program is providing technical support to the Ministry of Health to update national cervical cancer clinical guidelines, job aides, training manuals, and M&E tools. Capacity building to improve the knowledge and skills of national, district, and site-level staff is being offered through on-site trainings, clinical attachments to the Senkatana cervical cancer center of excellence, and on-going mentorship.
- ◆ The program will expand to sites that account for at least 70% of the WLHIV aged 25-49 years who are on treatment.
- ◆ The program will continue to leverage Government of Lesotho resources to improve treatment uptake by using thermocoagulation.



## Cervical Cancer Cascade



## # of Cervical Cancer Screenings



## Implementing Partners (FY20)

- ◆ Population Services International
- ◆ Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
- ◆ Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation