

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.

## **Country Context**

Total Population Estimate (PEPFAR Malawi Strategic Direction Summary 2020)

19,500,000

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

11.1%

Age-standardized Incidence Rate (per 100,000) of Cervical Cancer Cases Attributable to HPV

72.9

(Estimates for 2018) (HPV Information Center)

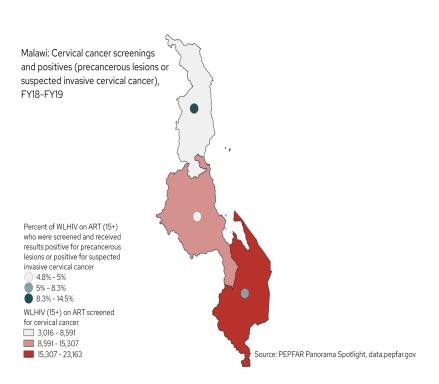
Total # of Women (All Ages) On ART (PEPFAR, FY20 Q2)

525,407

# **Malawi Program Highlights**

Malawi	Funding Amount	WLHIV on Treatment*	Cervical Cancer Screening Target
FY19	\$5,409,699	449,407	42,179
FY20	\$2,199,935	202,907	101,507
FY21	\$3,000,000	377,784	103,671

\* 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)



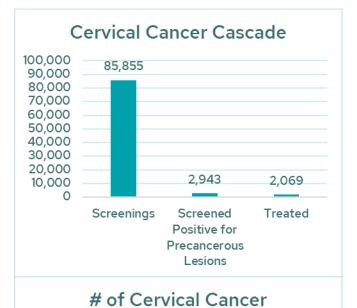
# **RESULTS SUMMARY**

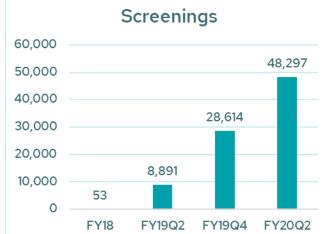
- In FY20: 48,297 screenings were done, representing 48% of the FY20 target, and 75% of women who screened positive for precancerous lesions were treated.
- Since FY18: 1,217 women have screened positive for suspected invasive cervical cancer. Of the 85,855 screenings. 72,341 (84.3%) were first time screenings, 683 (0.8%) were follow-up screenings, and 12,831 (14.9%) were re-screens.

## **Strategic Direction for FY21**

- PEPFAR will continue working with the Ministry of Health to introduce LEEP services to all district hospitals (secondary referral level), thereby improving access for WLHIV. PEPFAR implementing partners will continue to strengthen referral networks for WLHIV in need of LEEP and specialized care for those presumed to have cervical cancer.
- In line with Country Operational Plan guidance for FY21, implementing partners are strategizing on how to better support referral logistics including histopathology costs to enhance diagnostic work up and facilitate appropriate management for WLHIV in need.
- PEPFAR Malawi will also employ a hub and spoke model to expand services to facilities surrounding the district and other large mission hospitals. This allows for minimal investments for high impact through outreach clinics in facilities that are otherwise smaller in their WLHIV volume.







### **Implementing Partners (FY20)**

- ♦ The Lighthouse Trust
- ♦ Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
- Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation
- Partners In Hope
- ♦ Jhpiego