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.

Zambia Program Highlights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Zambia</th>
<th>Funding Amount</th>
<th>WLHIV on Treatment*</th>
<th>Cervical Cancer Screening Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY19</td>
<td></td>
<td>$3,500,000</td>
<td>260,000</td>
<td>130,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY20</td>
<td></td>
<td>$6,154,506</td>
<td>404,702</td>
<td>205,756</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY21</td>
<td></td>
<td>$6,007,477</td>
<td>437,986</td>
<td>258,351</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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): 17,426,623
- Women Aged 15–49 HIV Prevalence Rate (UNAIDS 2019): 13.8%
- Age-standardized Incidence Rate (per 100,000) of Cervical Cancer Cases Attributable to HPV (Estimates for 2018) (HPV Information Center): 66.4
- Total # of Women (All Ages) On ART (PEPFAR, FY20 Q2): 661,233

Zambia: 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:
- 5.8% - 7.5%
- 7.8% - 9.4%
- 9.4% - 10.8%
- 10.8% - 11.4%

WLHIV (15+) on ART screened for cervical cancer:
- <5 - 2,11
- 2,11 - 10,048
- 10,048 - 13,274
- 13,274 - 44,233

Source: PEPFAR Panorama Spotlight, data.pepfar.gov
Strategic Direction for FY21

♦ In FY21, PEPFAR Zambia will ensure district wide coverage of cervical cancer screening and treatment services in all 104 PEPFAR support districts.

♦ To improve treatment rates, PEPFAR Zambia will provide transport and assisted referrals for LEEP services for clients coming from facilities without theatre services.

♦ Zambia is embarking on making HPV DNA testing the gold standard for cervical cancer screening. HPV DNA self-testing, currently only offered in Lusaka, will be expanded to other provinces and will be scaled up in FY21 to sites where VIA is not available.

♦ Biopsy referral systems will be strengthened through expansion of histopathology services and specimen evaluation, including telepathology, to improve results return of specimens.

RESULTS SUMMARY

♦ In FY20: 79,142 screenings were done, representing 38% of the FY20 target, and 65% of women who screened positive for precancerous lesions were treated.

♦ Since FY18: 3,471 women screened positive for suspected invasive cervical cancer. Of the 203,056 screenings, 186,660 (91.9%) were first time screenings, 2,144 (11%) were follow-up screenings, and 14,252 (7%) were re-screens.

Implementing Partners (FY20)

♦ Eastern Provincial Health Office
♦ Western Provincial Health Office
♦ University Teaching Hospital
♦ Project Concern International
♦ Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia, Ltd.
♦ Lusaka Provincial Health Office
♦ JSI Research and Training Institute, ILC.
♦ John Snow, Inc.
♦ Right to Care
♦ Catholic Relief Services