

Cervical cancer is one of the most common cancers in women living in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), with roughly 110,000 women diagnosed annually; of these women, about 66% will die from the disease. Women living with HIV (WLHIV) are up to six times more likely to develop persistent precancerous lesions and progress to cervical cancer, often with more aggressive forms 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), Merck, and Roche. 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 expanded 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
(July 2021 est.)
(World Factbook)

2,177,740

Women Aged 15-49
HIV Prevalence Rate
(UNAIDS 2020)

26.1%

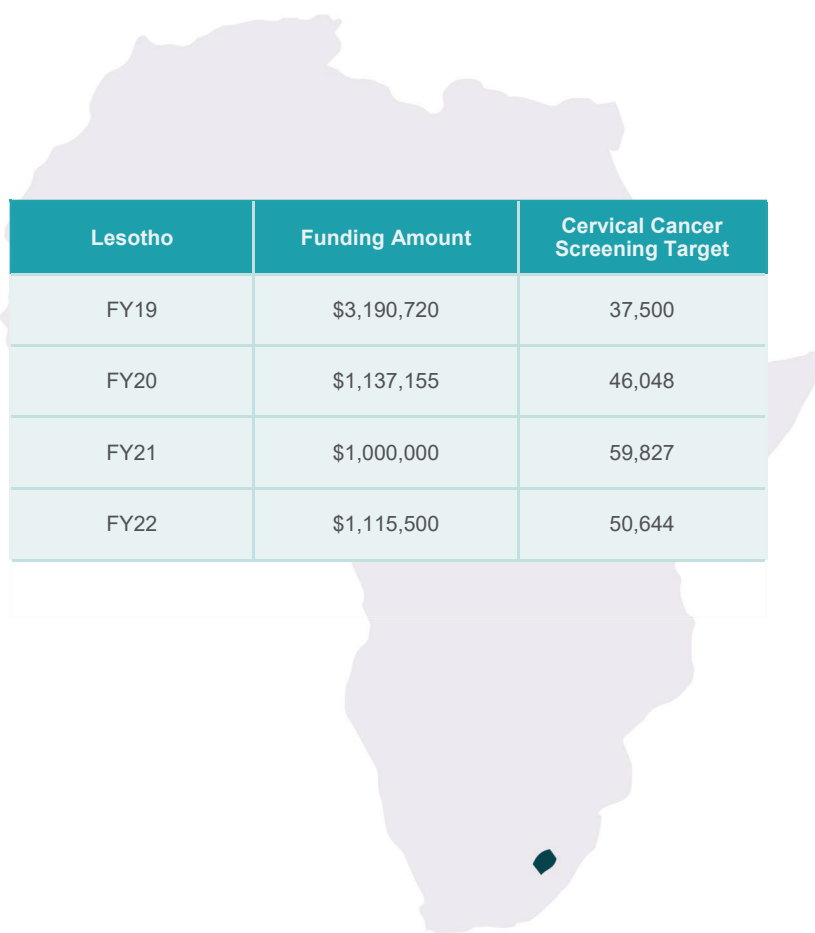
Age-standardized
Incidence Rate (per 100,000) of
Cervical Cancer Cases
(Estimates for 2020)
(<https://gco.iarc.fr/>)

56.8

Total # of Women
(All Ages) On ART
(PEPFAR, FY21 Q4)

149,490

Lesotho Program Highlights



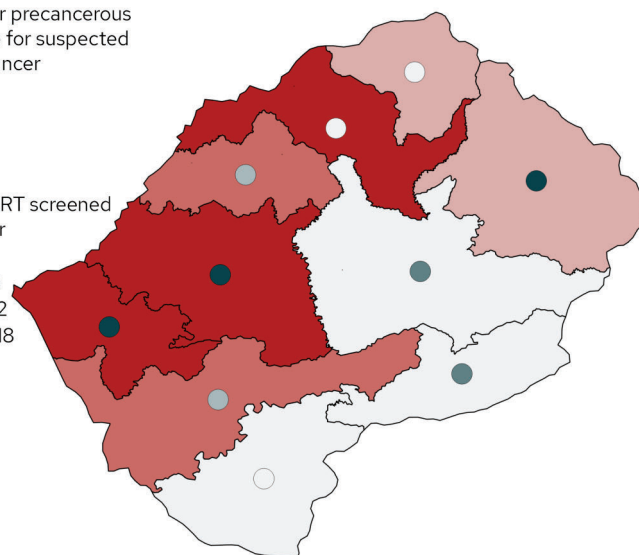
Lesotho: Cervical cancer screenings and positives (precancerous lesions or suspected invasive cervical cancer), FY18-FY21

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

- 3.8% - 4.8%
- 4.8% - 6.7%
- 6.7 - 9.1%
- 9.1% - 12.9%

WLHIV (15+) on ART screened for cervical cancer

- 2,431 - 4,506
- 4,506 - 5,325
- 5,325 - 10,002
- 10,002 - 32,318



Source: PEPFAR Panorama Spotlight, data.pepfar.gov

RESULTS SUMMARY

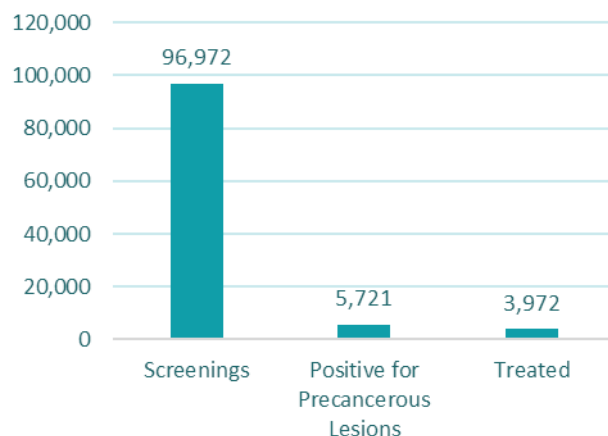
- ◆ In FY21: 32,828 screenings were performed, representing 55% of the FY21 target; 77% of women who screened positive for precancerous lesions received treatment.
- ◆ Since FY18: 1,779 women have screened positive for suspected invasive cervical cancer. Of the 96,972 screenings, 82,97 (85.6%) were first time screenings, 797 (0.8%) were follow-up screenings, 13,202 (13.6%) were re-screens.

Strategic Direction for FY22

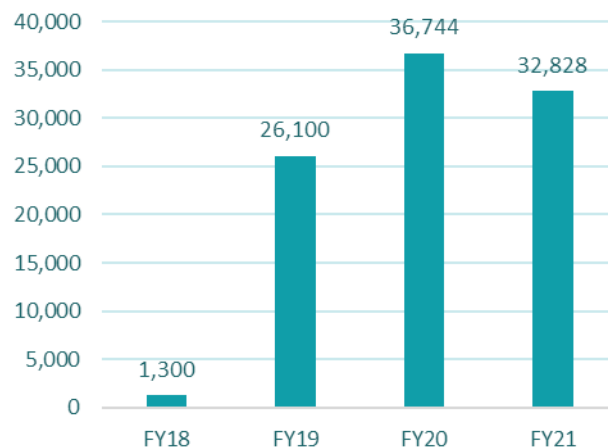
- ◆ For COP21, the PEPFAR Lesotho program is providing technical support to the Ministry of Health to update national cervical cancer clinical guidelines, job aides, training manuals, and M&E tools. Capacity building to improve the knowledge and skills of national, district, and site-level staff is being offered through on-site trainings, clinical attachments to the Senkatana cervical cancer center of excellence, and on-going mentorship.
- ◆ During COP21, the PEPFAR Lesotho program will build on these gains to expand cervical cancer screening services to 50,888 WLHIV aged 25-49 years, which reflects 50% of the current on treatment (TX_CURR) target in this age group.
- ◆ In COP21, the PEPFAR Lesotho program will continue to leverage GOL resources to improve treatment uptake by using thermocoagulation. Site, district, and partner-level performance reviews will be conducted through monthly progress reviews, site-level visits for programmatic monitoring, and SIMS visits.



Cascade, FY18 through FY21



of Screenings



Implementing Partners (FY22)

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