

Cervical cancer is the number one cancer killer of women 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 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 2020) **10.8%**

Age-standardized  
Incidence Rate (per 100,000) of  
Cervical Cancer Cases  
(Estimates for 2020)  
(<https://gco.iarc.fr/>) **67.9**

Total # of Women  
(All Ages) On ART  
(PEPFAR, FY20 Q4) **533,669**

## 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	200,136	101,507
FY21	\$3,000,000	378,235	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)

Malawi: Cervical cancer screenings and positives (precancerous lesions or suspected invasive cervical cancer), FY18-FY20

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

- 4.1% - 4.3%
- 4.3% - 5.3%
- 5.3% - 7.2%

WLHIV (15+) on ART screened for cervical cancer

- 8,299 - 27,458
- 27,458 - 49,126
- 49,126 - 73,303



Source: PEPFAR Panorama Spotlight, [data.pepfar.gov](http://data.pepfar.gov)

## RESULTS SUMMARY

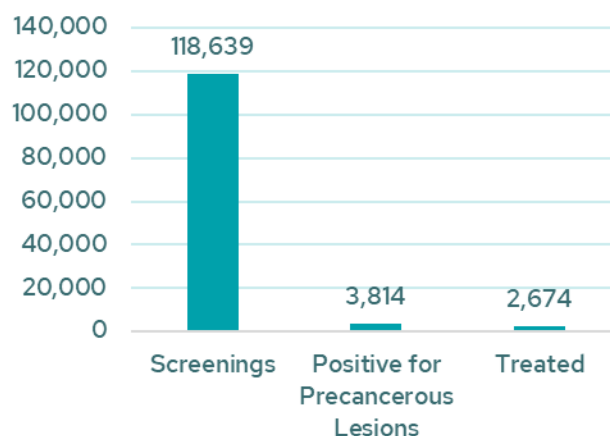
- ◆ In FY20: 81,081 screenings were done, representing 80% of the FY20 target, and 73% of women who screened positive for precancerous lesions were treated.
- ◆ Since FY18: 1,507 women have screened positive for suspected invasive cervical cancer. Of the 118,639 screenings, 93,217 (78.6%) were first time screenings, 1,240 (1.0%) were follow-up screenings, and 24,182 (20.4%) were re-screens.

## Strategic Direction for FY21

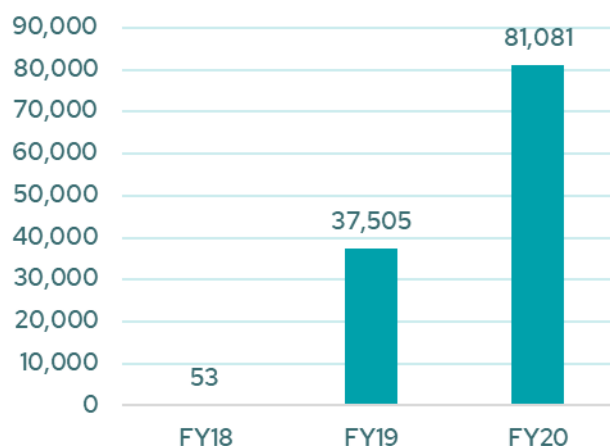
- ◆ PEPFAR, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and stakeholders, is introducing LEEP services to all district hospitals (secondary referral level) to improve access for WLHIV. PEPFAR implementing partners continue to strengthen referral networks for WLHIV in need of LEEP and specialized care for those presumed to have cervical cancer where these services are not available.
- ◆ In line with the Country Operational Plan guidance for FY21, implementing partners are supporting referral logistics including histopathology costs to enhance diagnostic work up and facilitate appropriate management for WLHIV in need.
- ◆ PEPFAR Malawi employs a hub and spoke model to expand services to facilities surrounding the district hospitals 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. However, this initiative is affected by the ongoing second wave of the COVID19 pandemic in Malawi.



## Cervical Cancer Cascade



## # of Screenings



## Implementing Partners (FY21)

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