The Problem

Opportunities for prevention

Unitaid’s work in cervical cancer

When women have access to early care, cervical cancer is largely preventable and treatable. Despite this, it remains one of the leading cancers faced by women worldwide, with a disproportionate burden falling on those living in low- and middle-income countries.

Unitaid is leading efforts to expand access to critical tools and services that will enable millions of women to be screened and treated for early signs of cancer. Since 2019, Unitaid has supported the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), and the Scale Up Cervical Cancer Elimination with Secondary prevention Strategy (SUCCESS) Project, carried out in partnership with Expertise France, Jhpiego, and the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC).

Working in collaboration with these partners and the governments of 14 low- and middle-income countries, Unitaid is proving out a highly effective and affordable package of tools and delivery models that can make the World Health Organization’s elimination targets achievable.

Cervical cancer elimination is achievable. The World Health Organization has launched a global strategy calling to end cervical cancer as a public health threat. Unitaid is supporting low- and middle-income countries in pursuit of that goal by overcoming access barriers to key tools and developing models for secondary prevention of cervical cancer.

Unitaid’s focus

Primary prevention

HPV vaccination

90%

Of all girls fully vaccinated with HPV vaccine by 15 years of age

Unitaid’s focus

Secondary prevention

Screening & treatment

70%

Of all women screened using a high-performance test by 35 and again by 45 years old

90%

Of all women identified with pre-cancerous cells treated

Tertiary prevention

Cancer treatment & care

90%

Of all women identified with invasive cancer treated

Unitaid’s work in cervical cancer

With more than US$70 million invested so far, Unitaid is now the largest funder of innovative tools to find and treat women with pre-cancer living in low-resource settings. By overcoming access barriers and laying the groundwork for national cervical cancer elimination efforts in 14 countries, Unitaid is proving out effective models to scale up prevention across low- and middle-income countries worldwide.

300k+

women die from cervical cancer each year

90%

of deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries

6x

higher risk of cervical cancer among women living with HIV
Cervical cancer is largely an issue of access. In low resource settings, progress towards elimination targets has been held back by a lack of awareness, high costs, ineffective screening methods and ill-adapted treatment devices.

With price reductions secured for HPV testing and thermal ablation devices, and self-sampling techniques making screening more acceptable to more women, Unitaid is advancing a package of care that can reach women with life-saving preventive services and make cervical cancer elimination a reality.

**Achievements so far**

- US$ 70 million invested
- 750k+ women screened
- 14 countries
- 3 continents

- 1 in 3 women screened with HPV tests
- ~40% price reduction on HPV tests
- ~45% price reduction on thermal ablation
- 75% women self-sampling for HPV

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*Results as of June 2022

**On track to reach 1 million women by 2023

***HPV DNA tests available for ~US$9

****Average of Liger TA product $925 and Wisap TA product £904/938