

Cervical Cancer in South Africa's Global Fund Request (submitted in August 2021, for implementation from April 2022 – March 2025)

\$2,329,668.20 requested

As a new addition to South Africa's Global Fund grants, funding is requested to prevent and treat cervical cancer among high-risk women and girls. There are five main strategies in this request: (1) education and awareness, (2) promotion of HPV vaccination, (3) a demonstration project of HPV screening (self-sampling method) for HPV DNA testing, (4) mapping and referrals to public health facilities for cervical cancer services, and (5) advocacy and policy work.

First, funding is requested to do **cervical and breast cancer education and awareness** during the planned outreach in the prevention module to sex workers, AGYW, and women who use drugs. Women living with HIV will also be reached, through the support groups in the treatment module. Peer educators, support group facilitators, and SRs/SSRs will be trained in cervical and breast cancer awareness, and IEC materials with the "High Five" method will be printed and distributed.

Second, during outreach, interventionist staff will **promote HPV vaccination catch up** for sex workers, AGYW, women living with HIV, and women who use drugs, that never got the vaccine via the school health program. Technical support will also be provided to NDOH and DBE to **strengthen the roll out of in-school HPV vaccination program**, which is funded by the government.

Third, funding is requested to support a **demonstration project of HPV screening (self-sampling method) with HPV DNA testing** among a sub-set of high-risk sex workers and HIV-positive in the following priority districts in the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng, the three provinces where NHLS currently has enough capacity to do this. Provisionally, the following districts will be explored as potential demonstration sites: King Cetshwayo (sex workers & AGYW), Nelson Mandela Bay (sex workers & AGYW), Zululand (AGYW), Tshwane (AGYW), OR Tambo (AGYW), West Rand (sex workers) and Sedibeng (sex workers). Funding will support the procurement of HPV self-screening kits for 5000 sex workers and 5000 HIV-positive AGYW. An evaluation will be done, to promote scale-up by NDOH based on lessons learned.

Fourth, an **assessment of the availability of HPV and cervical cancer services in public health facilities** in priority district will be done, to understand which ones offer HPV vaccination, HPV screening, confirmatory testing, and treatment using large loop excision of the transformation zone (LEETZ). Once mapped, **referrals for these services** will be made (as relevant) for sex workers, AGYW, women living with HIV, and women who use drugs.

Fifth, funding is requested to support cervical cancer **advocacy and policy work** to understand barriers to accessing cervical cancer services, promote access to HPV urine test in the public sector, hasten availability of HPV self-screening for HPV DNA testing in the other six provinces, explore options for the inclusion of boys in the school HPV vaccination program, promote fidelity to the national cervical cancer policy including tri-annual screening in the public sector for women living with HIV, among other priorities.