Accelerating the Fight Against HPV and Cervical Cancer

Strategy and Action Plan

2024 - 2026
Today, we have an unprecedented opportunity to prevent HPV and eliminate cervical cancer.

Almost all cervical cancer cases are caused by the human papillomavirus or HPV as it’s commonly called. We have potent tools including a powerful vaccine to prevent HPV infections and sophisticated diagnostics to detect precancerous lesions early.

Yet, cervical cancer kills a woman every 90 seconds. Inaction will lead to a 50% increase in cases and deaths by 2040, meaning a woman will be lost to cervical cancer every minute.

This tragedy ends when we increase acceptance of and access to HPV vaccination, screening, and early treatment.

The Global HPV Consortium is here to help intensify efforts against HPV and align with the World Health Organization’s (WHO) 3-pronged cervical cancer elimination strategy:

**PREVENTION**
Introducing and expanding HPV vaccination

**SCREENING**
Expanding provision and access to cervical cancer screening

**TREATMENT**
Improving access to treatment of precancerous lesions with point-of-care devices
Let us forge a path where HPV and cervical cancer are no longer a glaring example of inequity but a challenge we have courageously met and overcome.

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala
Director-General,
World Trade Organization
Preventable deaths from cervical cancer now far outpace mothers dying from childbirth and pregnancy-related complications with more than 340,000 women succumbing to the disease each year.

90% of these women live in low- and middle-income countries.

Cervical Cancer Incidence and Mortality Rates by Country Income

Source: Journal Microorganisms, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Level</th>
<th>Incidence Rate per 100,000</th>
<th>Mortality Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low Income</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-Middle Income</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>High Income</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
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The Global HPV Consortium
Cervical cancer is the only cancer that the world has committed to eliminate – because we can.

WHO’s 90-70-90 Targets to Eliminate Cervical Cancer by 2030

Each pillar of the elimination agenda targets women at a unique life stage — vaccinating adolescents beginning at 9 years of age; screening women from their 30s onward; and treating precancers early.

- 90% of girls fully vaccinated with the HPV vaccine by age 15.
- 70% of women are screened with a high-performance test by 35 and 45 years of age.
- 90% of women with pre-cancer treated and with invasive cancer managed.
If I had not gone for my pap smear, I would not be here today and my children would be without their mother. Cervical cancer is a treatable disease....but unfortunately the challenge is getting women to come forward to be screened.

Genevieve Sambhi
Cervical Cancer Survivor and Former Miss Malaysia
The strategy and actions of the Consortium will be guided by 4 principles.

**INTEGRATION**
Where historically policies, programs, and people have worked independently across the three pillars, the Global HPV Consortium will spur a paradigm shift towards a unified and transdisciplinary alliance of agendas and changemakers. The Consortium will incorporate integrated approaches at the primary and secondary prevention levels as well as within health services.

**EQUITY**
Equitable access to vaccines, screening, and treatment services requires creative solutions to barriers such as gender, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status and a keen focus on groups who continue to be left behind. The Consortium will spotlight these disparities to increase awareness, highlight opportunities, and augment access through locally developed solutions.

**HETEROGENEITY**
Embracing distinctions between and within countries and communities requires movement away from a ‘one-size-fits-all’ approach and towards policies and programs informed by people at the national, sub-national, and local levels. The Consortium will place great emphasis on ensuring that those closest to the challenge are included in designing solutions.

**SUSTAINABILITY**
The Consortium, with its integrated approach, will promote the resilience of cervical cancer elimination programs and safeguard longevity, so countries are able to persist with programs even in a health crisis. To sustain action, countries must be supported in the design and development of domestic financing plans that can be maintained robustly beyond the introductory phase.
The Consortium's Action Plan seeks to respond to the needs and challenges that countries and communities face to make cervical cancer history.

The Action Plan will encompass 4 key areas:

- Advocacy and Thought Leadership
- Knowledge Management and Exchange
- Convening of Key Stakeholders
- Country-Based Support
ADVOCACY AND THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

- **Unify global stakeholders** from the private, public, non-profit and civil society sectors across the three pillars of vaccination, screening, and treatment to accelerate action towards cervical cancer elimination goals.
- **Foster collaboration** among partners to enhance synergistic action and impact.
- **Support strategic communications** across Consortium-owned and partner platforms to galvanize action, foster thought-leadership, and build an engaged community.
- **Cultivate an active network** of strong champions (cancer survivors, youth advocates, women and transgender influencers, and global leaders) to raise awareness and win political commitment at the national and local levels.
- **Advocate for integrated and pro-equity approaches** to HPV and cervical cancer-related policies, funding, and programming by global institutions and country governments.
- **Leverage major global health and policy events** to amplify advocacy, partnerships, and opportunities for the Consortium.
KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND EXCHANGE

- **Create a hub** that aggregates evidence, data, case studies, and best practices on HPV prevention and cervical cancer elimination.
- **Develop and sustain** a ‘learning collective’ among Consortium partners and participants to enable multi-directional dialogue and exchange of ideas, learnings, and opportunities.
- **Share ways to improve** integration of primary and secondary prevention services, including holistic Policymaking and financing, health systems strengthening, and workforce capacity building.
- **Disseminate best practices** for introduction and scale-up across primary and secondary prevention.
- **Harness evidence** to advocate for groups at greater risk for HPV and cervical cancer, including women living with HIV, transgender individuals and out-of-school adolescents.
- **Amplify the role** and voices of adolescents, youth, and women.
- **Strengthen data collection** and analysis on disease burden, mortality, and the coverage of vaccination, screening, and treatment services.
- **Promote access** to advancements and innovations across the value chain of prevention, including delivery models, self-sampling, multi-pathogen diagnostics platforms, early treatment options, cold chain innovation, and data management.
CONVENING OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- **Gather global and regional stakeholders** to promote cross-country and transdisciplinary exchange and learning for HPV prevention and cervical cancer elimination.

- **Organize country-level meetings** at a national and sub-national level to initiate feedback loops and build accountability among stakeholders.

- **Hold customized workshops** among government representatives, Consortium partners, and key opinion leaders to disseminate information and facilitate cross-learning.
COUNTRY-BASED SUPPORT

- **Mobilize political will** for the prevention and elimination agenda through strategic outreach and engagement with health ministers, First Ladies, multilateral institutions, donors, key influencers, and civil society organizations.
- **Support national and sub-national governments** in developing and implementing comprehensive and sustainable policies and plans to prevent HPV and eliminate cervical cancer.
- **Build contextualized investment cases** for cervical cancer elimination by collating country-specific evidence, data, and budgeting tools.
- **Support countries** in securing sufficient and sustainable financing.
- **Conduct social and behavioral research** to understand and lift barriers to vaccination, screening, and treatment services.
- **Spur, share, and support** locally tailored, community-driven, service delivery models for vaccination, screening, and treatment.
Change happens through movements, not mandates. We want to topple the silos and amplify the participation of adolescents, youth, and women.

Anuradha Gupta
President, Global Immunization, Sabin Vaccine Institute
About the Global HPV Consortium

The Global HPV Consortium launched in September 2023 as public-private movement to prevent HPV infection and eliminate cervical cancer as a public health concern by operating across the three pillars of vaccination, screening, and early treatment. The Consortium is a unique and independent transdisciplinary alliance guided by global goals, including WHO’s Immunization Agenda 2030 and Cervical Cancer Elimination Initiative. We are committed to sustaining engagement across all levels of governance and implementation (global, regional, national, sub-national, and local), and ensuring that those closest to the problem are part of the solution.

To contact the Global HPV Consortium, email us at HPVconsortium@sabin.org.

About the Sabin Vaccine Institute

The Sabin Vaccine Institute, the Consortium’s Secretariat, is a leading advocate for expanding vaccine access and uptake globally, advancing vaccine research and development, and amplifying vaccine knowledge and innovation. Unlocking the potential of vaccines through partnership, Sabin has built a robust ecosystem of funders, innovators, implementers, practitioners, policy makers and public stakeholders to advance its vision of a future free from preventable diseases. As a non-profit with more than three decades of experience, Sabin is committed to finding solutions that last and extending the full benefits of vaccines to all people, regardless of who they are or where they live.
We have the possibility of actually eliminating a cancer – that would be a first...Firsts are celebrated precisely because they are not business as usual.

Rt. Hon. Helen Clark
Former Prime Minister of New Zealand and Gender Equality Leader