



**TOGETHER**  
*for health*



**2024 YEAR IN REVIEW**

Dear Supporters,

These days it feels like the road has been tilted, sending us toppling back toward where we began.

After years of progress – halting, difficult progress, but progress nonetheless – many cervical cancer prevention and other women's health programs are suddenly at the mercy of leadership that is at best unmoved by the plight of women everywhere, and at worst actively hostile to evidence-based health and support for programs in low- and middle-income countries.

After just weeks of turmoil in 2025, much of the work we at TogetHER for Health had undertaken in 2024 feels like it took place forever ago. Global solidarity around ending this preventable cancer feels suddenly fractured.

Drastic reductions in financial support by the United States threaten to shutter women's health programs around the world – including those providing cervical cancer screening and treatment - that have taken years to plan, implement, and scale. Steady increases in HPV vaccination coverage – both in the United States and abroad – are in danger of being undone by the evidence-free whims of so-called skeptics appointed to positions of power over domestic and international health. Hard-won progress could be set back years, leaving millions of women and their families at pointless risk for a preventable disease.

**Amidst the chaos, though, we remain inspired by our vision: a world without cervical cancer deaths.**

We're not giving up on these women, their families, and their communities – and neither should you. Despite the chaos, TogetHER remains steadfast in our belief that every death from cervical cancer is preventable. This was true before the launch of the World Health Organization's global elimination strategy and it remains true today.

There's never been a time in which it is more important to move together for women everywhere. And that's how we'll proceed – no matter how steep the incline.

Heather White - Executive Director

Kathy Vizas - Co-Founder and Chief Strategy Officer

March 2025



Cervical cancer is the first cancer we can eliminate – but only if we invest in effective prevention and treatment. Safe, effective vaccines against human papillomavirus (HPV) prevent six HPV-related cancers, including almost all cervical cancer. Identifying precancerous cervical lesions through accurate screening is a first step toward their safe removal. And expanding access to both vaccination and screening reduces the number of diagnoses, enabling higher treatment and cure rates.

If these interventions exist today, why are hundreds of thousands of women dying from cervical cancer every year, the majority in low- and middle-income countries? The answer is simple: insufficient access and fragmented health systems that leave women at unnecessary risk.

TogetHER for Health is working across the world to address this access challenge. Quite simply, our vision is a world in which no woman dies of cervical cancer because we know they don't have to.

We're a global partnership focused on ending cervical cancer by generating political will to improve policies and increase investment, enhancing technology and practice, and expanding awareness to address these inequities. Drawing on the commitment and expertise of partners working in almost 60 countries, TogetHER for Health builds connections among programs that provide quality care but too often work in silos.

The World Health Organization (WHO) launched its Global Strategy to Accelerate the Elimination of Cervical Cancer in November of 2020 – the first-ever global plan to eliminate

a cancer. Achieving cervical cancer elimination hinges on three critical access targets:

- Vaccinating 90% of girls against HPV by 15 years of age;
- Screening 70% of women at ages 35 and 45 for precancerous cervical lesions; and
- Ensuring that 90% of those women in need receive treatment for cervical disease.

In 2024, strong support for expanding access to HPV vaccination – most notably from funders of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance – resulted in [an increase in global coverage that reached 27% of young women](#), a significant jump from the 16% global coverage rate in 2021. These efforts have deservedly received widespread praise for ensuring that millions of women across the world will live lives free from cervical cancer and other HPV-related cancers.

However, that same level of support has eluded the other two key cervical cancer elimination pillars: screening and treatment. [Recent estimates](#) project that only one in three women globally has ever been screened for cervical cancer, and in low- and lower middle-income countries that number is only around one in ten. Without commensurate commitment as that for HPV vaccination, millions of women today who are not screened and followed up appropriately, bear unacceptable risk for a preventable deadly condition.

The women of today AND tomorrow deserve lives free from cervical cancer. TogetHER for Health is dedicated to doing what it takes to accelerate access to the evidence-based prevention and treatment tools and strategies.

*The World Health Organization's Three Cervical Cancer Elimination Pillars. Source: WHO, 2020.*





# A Closer Look

## Women Impacted by **TOGETHER**

**Zeida Modise**, 38, is a caregiver, community member, and mother of three in Gabane, Botswana.\*

Zeida is a vibrant and giving mother of three. She often neglects her own health to be sure she can provide for her family and neighbors. She cares for her children, husband, and mother in her small home in a village 20 miles from the capital of Gaborone.

She brings in a little income from selling vegetables she grows in her garden. She is deeply connected to the women in her village; Zeida and her neighbors help one another with childcare and other tasks.

Zeida learns that a nearby health clinic is encouraging women to get gynecological health screenings. Although she is nervous about these exams, she has had some unexplained pain and bleeding, so decides to go the clinic's no-cost "open days." After receiving an HPV test and pelvic exam, Zeida is diagnosed with cervical precancer.

Because of the pilot study funded by TogetHER and led by nonprofit Jhpiego, thermal ablation has been adopted into Botswana's national practice guidelines for cervical cancer treatment. Zeida undergoes this short, simple procedure at her local clinic. The nurse practitioner uses a lightweight, portable ablation machine to remove precancerous lesions from Zeida's cervix, and she goes home after a brief rest.

Zeida soon takes her two teenage daughters to the clinic for HPV vaccination and spreads the word among her friends and family of the importance of vaccination for their children. Empowered by her easy, early treatment, she demystifies gynecological exams for the women in her village and advocates with local leadership to make more "open days" available at the clinic.



"The treatment and testing is there to keep myself safe and my family safe. I do this for them."

*\*This composite persona is a representation of the women whom TogetHER aims to reach through our multilevel efforts. Through this lens, we can see how TogetHER's efforts cause a ripple effect to positively impact a woman's future, family, and community.*

## TogetHER's Approach

TogetHER works to catalyze cervical cancer elimination by:

- **Scaling up** to create structural change through policy and advocacy;
- **Scaling out** to drive regional impact through partnership and education; and
- **Scaling deep** to address cultural barriers by increasing awareness and amplifying critical perspectives.

Organized around these three priorities, TogetHER's 2024 activities made significant contributions toward a world without cervical cancer.

## Scaling Up Through Policy and Advocacy

Scaling cervical cancer prevention programs at the population level depends on the mobilization of political will and financial resources, underpinned by an enabling policy environment. TogetHER and our partners engage policymakers and funders to generate critical support for cervical cancer prevention programs and demand accountability for prior commitments. Of course, driving policy change and new investment can't be done by one organization working alone. 2024 provided a number of examples of how TogetHER's advocacy is powered by our partnerships at the national, regional, and global levels.

The United States government plays an outsized role in saving women's lives from cervical cancer, and is the single largest funder of cervical cancer screening and treatment in low- and middle-income countries, primarily through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)'s Go Further Program. In 2024, TogetHER and our partners continued our work engaging U.S. Congressional staff to raise awareness of U.S. investments in cervical cancer prevention, with a more specific goal of educating legislators on the potential for HPV testing to enhance the global response to cervical cancer. In May, TogetHER for Health staff, along with representatives from PATH, Pathfinder International, Jhpiego, and Cervivor, Inc. met with staff from five key Congressional offices on Capitol Hill on the power of these lifesaving investments. In addition to this in-person advocacy, TogetHER and Pathfinder teams met with Congressional staff virtually, with 27 total offices engaged in 2024.



*Representatives from Pathfinder International, TogetHER for Health, PATH, and GreyRobinson meeting with staff from Congresswoman Katherine Clark of Massachusetts, May 2024*

In absence of significant investments in prevention and a stronger health policy environment, the respective burdens of cervical and breast cancer are projected to rise in the Asia Pacific Region. In 2023, TogetHER joined with regional experts as a founding member of the [APAC Women's Cancer Coalition](#) to drive regional progress toward the achievement of the WHO's global targets for breast and cervical cancer. Building on the evidence compiled in a 2023 Coalition-commissioned report from Economist Impact, 2024 saw the Coalition move to engage stakeholders at the country level, as profiled in a piece published by [Roche's XProject](#). TogetHER's Heather White was invited to represent the Coalition at a national roundtable event held in Hanoi highlighting existing efforts regarding cervical cancer prevention and control. The December event was attended by Ministry leadership, academic and civil society leaders, as well as regional experts from Australia and Malaysia.



*Cervical Cancer: Impact and Elimination Opportunity Roundtable, Hanoi, Vietnam, December 2024.*



In November, TogetHER released our [sixth annual estimates of funding for cervical cancer prevention](#) in low-income countries (LICs) and lower middle-income countries (LMICs), covering the years 2018 through 2023. Our analysis presented diverging funding paths for cervical cancer prevention. Funding for HPV vaccination in LMICs 2023 reached \$202.8 million, a massive funding increase of 245% from 2022 made possible by the rollout of Gavi's revitalization program seeking to ensure 86 million young women are vaccinated by the end of 2025. Meanwhile, funding for cervical cancer screening and treatment fell by 18.2% to \$54.9 million, underscoring a lack of sustained commitment to these two key prevention measures.

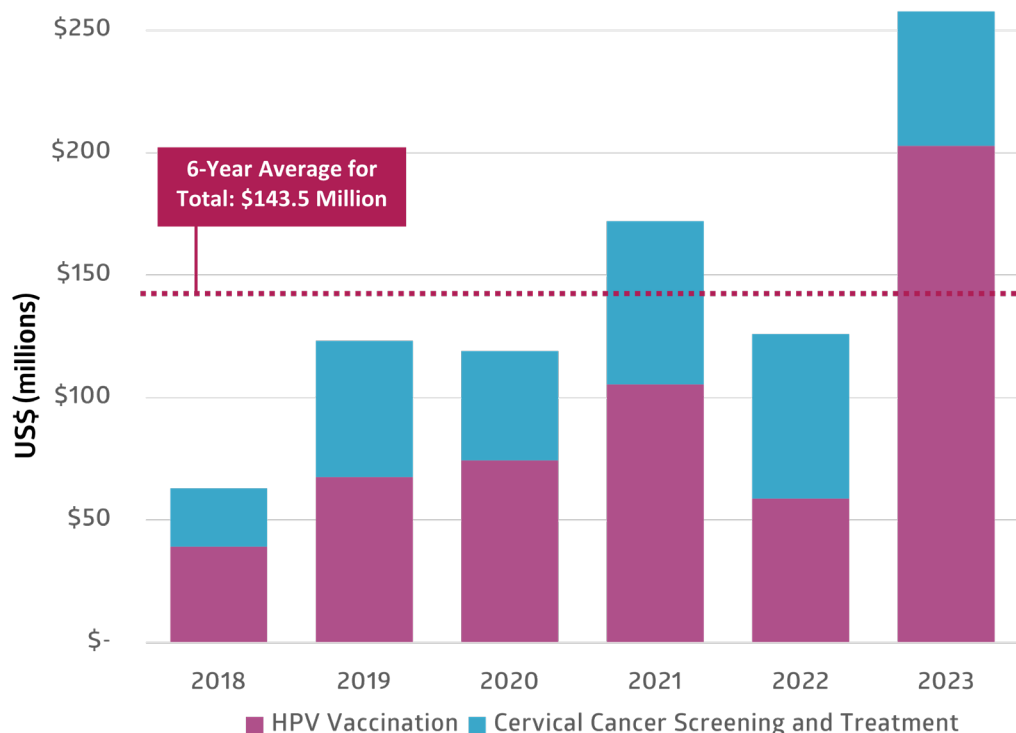
This mixed funding picture was reflected in statements coming out of the March Cervical Cancer Elimination Forum held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, where a group of global stakeholders including the World Bank, the Global Financing Facility, UNICEF, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and a host of countries made financial commitments to cervical cancer elimination totaling \$590 million. Commitments toward HPV vaccination were especially strong, while financial support for cervical cancer screening and treatment was mentioned in mostly vague terms. [Our statement noted this disparity](#) and called for more transparency and specificity toward holistic support for all three elimination pillars, especially from new political

and financial champions.

Molecular diagnostics for HPV have proven to be far more accurate than more widespread visual methods such as cytology and visual inspection with acetic acid, while also requiring less frequent screening and reducing the burden on health practitioners, especially when deployed through self-testing, but the high per-test cost of such diagnostics limits access globally. Pooled procurement mechanisms have been essential to negotiating reduced prices and expanding the supply of global health commodities on behalf of low- and middle-income countries, including for HPV vaccines.

To understand how pooled procurement might be leveraged to reduce the cost of HPV tests in low- and middle-income countries, [TogetHER for Health undertook a formative research project](#) combining desk research with interviews of stakeholders representing HPV diagnostics manufacturers, cervical cancer program implementers, and organizations specializing in global health procurement. Some key takeaways of this project included:

- Sustainable, predictable funding is key to any successful pooled procurement, providing the necessary incentive for suppliers to commit volumes of health commodities and in turn to negotiate price reductions.



*Cervical Cancer Prevention Funding in Low- and Lower Middle-Income Countries, 2018-2023*



*29 organizations spanning HIV and cervical cancer prevention signed on to the joint call to action by AVAC and TogetHER for Health for increased focus on vaccinating women and girls living with HIV against HPV.*

- Reliable demand forecasting is critical to substantiating the case for pooling resources and ensuring the necessary supply.
- Expanding the eligibility of pre-existing pooled mechanisms to include HPV diagnostics may be preferable to the creation of one dedicated solely to their purchase, given the effort and investment needed to launch a new pooled mechanism.
- Reducing the price of HPV tests and increasing their supply can amplify the impact of investments and support higher cervical cancer screening rates, but ultimately these only represent one part of a complex process necessary to screen and, if necessary, treat women.

TogetHER for Health hopes this new publication proves useful to generate awareness and spark meaningful dialogue towards making HPV tests more widely affordable and accessible.

Cervical cancer and HIV/AIDS are intertwined epidemiologically, as the prevalence of one increases the risk of the other. Each disease also has benefited from global commitments to scaling up interventions as a means to ultimately drive their incidence toward elimination. One area of neglect involves increasing HPV immunization rates

in people living with HIV, who bear heightened risk for developing cervical cancer. For International HPV Awareness Day (March 4th), TogetHER and our partners at AVAC revisited our prior joint statement and [gathered almost 30 organizations](#) spanning HIV/AIDS and cervical cancer prevention organizations to call for increased attention to providing HPV vaccines for people living with HIV.

### Scaling Out Through Partnership, Education, and Funding

TogetHER leverages targeted engagement and catalytic funding to support programs in low-resource settings. Our work strengthens the critical evidence base to support programs both globally and in the United States and drives lifesaving access to cervical cancer prevention services.

Our [Cervical Cancer Grants Program](#) targets funding to programs we think can have an immediate impact on women's health while also generating evidence supporting wider access to innovative cervical cancer prevention technologies. In 2024, our Request for Proposal elicited over 225 applications, an astounding fourfold increase over 2023. In July, we announced the Grants Program's three newest recipients:

**Teal Sisters Foundation's** community of empowered, informed and thriving women renders support, makes critical connections, and provides hope to women in Zambia, building a movement to eliminate cervical cancer in the country. Teal Sisters Foundation's project will utilize a community-based approach to increase uptake of cervical cancer prevention services in three high-burden districts across Zambia, building capacity in volunteers and healthcare workers to strengthen awareness of cervical cancer prevention along the path to connecting over 5,700 girls and women with preventive services.

**Slum and Rural Health Initiative (SRHIN)** is a leader among Nigeria's youth-led organizations, working with communities, healthcare professionals and government to advance health equity in Africa's most underserved communities. Their prior experience in cervical cancer prevention includes initiatives in four states in Nigeria, including a program promoting cancer awareness and HPV vaccine awareness in Jos, Plateau State. SRHIN's campaign will be designed and led by young people to advocate for HPV vaccination in Lagos State, Nigeria, combining a "citizen science" training program implementing culturally sensitive community-based awareness and outreach activities, data collection and analysis, alongside a parent-targeted communication campaign.

**CureCervicalCancer** launched its community-based Mobile Health for Mamas program in 2021, designed to reach medically underserved women at their own doorsteps with self-sample HPV testing and mobile treatment clinics within walking distance of their homes. CureCervicalCancer's project will leverage the Mobile

Health for Mamas model in a remote and high-need region of Western Kenya, aiming to screen 7,000 women for high-risk HPV using a self-sampling approach. The program also aims to treat 90% of women for whom treatment is indicated, in line with the World Health Organization's cervical cancer elimination targets.

We're thrilled to be supporting these three great organizations making a difference on the frontlines as well as influencing clinical practice for cervical cancer programs everywhere. We're also struck by the tremendous interest in our grants program, which speaks to the dedication and creativity of individuals and programs working to end cervical cancer everywhere.

Alabama has among the highest death rates from cervical cancer in the U.S., nearly 50% higher than in the rest of the country. Several years ago, TogetHER joined with the Alabama Department of Public Health and the University of Alabama at Birmingham's School of Public Health to launch Operation Wipe Out, promoting education and ensuring access to affordable HPV vaccination, screening, and treatment services for adolescents and women in Alabama. Operation Wipe Out efforts resulted in the May 2023 launch of the United States' first statewide action plan to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem.

In 2024, TogetHER spearheaded the launch of [a new Operation Wipe Out website](#) and social media effort in February to better promote the partnership's work. The partnership was profiled in the Wall Street Journal in May, lauding Alabama's leadership in setting a ten-year goal to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem. And in



TogetHER's 2024 Cervical Cancer Grants Program Awardee. L:R Slum and Rural Health Initiative; Teal Sisters Foundation; CureCervicalCancer



June, TogetHER organized the Night Out for Wipe Out Gala to celebrate the work of Operation Wipe Out and raise critical support for the project. It was a wonderful opportunity to gather so many of the partners together in one place. We are proud to have raised a total of \$26,366 for this effort.

External engagement remains a key part of TogetHER's mandate, not only for advocacy but for building key connections that can strengthen partnerships and create new opportunities. TogetHER's support for United States efforts to combat cervical cancer extended to the Executive Branch in 2024, as [Executive Director Heather White was tapped to moderate a discussion](#) organized by the Biden Cancer Moonshot in January. This conversation highlighted activities being undertaken around the world to save women's lives from cervical cancer with support from the United States government, and featured leadership from the U.S. National Cancer Institute (NCI), the United States Agency for International Development, Roche Diagnostics, the George W. Bush Institute, and the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center at the University of Texas.

In April 2024, TogetHER repeated our attendance at the Skoll World Forum in London. We also returned to the World Cancer Congress organized by the Union for International Cancer Control in Geneva, where we worked with the Commonwealth Secretariat to co-sponsor [a forum discussing the need for additional focus on cervical cancer screening and treatment](#) commensurate with that on HPV vaccination, which was summarized in [a report released early in 2025](#).



*Tamika Felder (Cervivor Inc.), Heather White (TogetHER for Health) and Linda Hayes (Alabama Department of Public Health) at the Night Out for Wipe Out Gala in Birmingham, AL, June 2024*

## Meet Mukedzei Seramani

Bowdoin College student Mukedzei Seramani will be interning with Slum and Rural Health Initiative, documenting work supported by TogetHER's Cervical Cancer Grants Program. She says, "I am honored to serve as a Global Citizens Fellow with SRHI in Nigeria this summer. Over 8-10 weeks, I will be supporting community health initiatives focused on raising awareness, educating, and preventing cervical cancer. This cause is particularly close to my heart, as I have witnessed the devastating impact of cervical cancer through the loss of my aunt. Too many women, especially in underserved communities, lack access to the vital information and medical resources needed for prevention. I am deeply committed to bridging this gap and ensuring that more women have access to the life-saving knowledge and care they deserve."



We're proud to participate in a number of wider collaborations focused on cervical cancer and the cancer prevention and care space. TogetHER is a member of the Global HPV Consortium, the APAC Women's Cancer Coalition, and the Union for International Cancer Control. In 2024 we were honored to be invited to join both the American Cancer Society's National HPV Roundtable as well as its Cervical Cancer Roundtable.

## Scaling Deep Through Sharing Knowledge and Perspectives

The impact and contours of cervical cancer differ depending on the context – including the region and the specific demographic population. These considerations are critical to effectively rolling out prevention programs, necessitating a diverse and widely available knowledge base on what works in each setting. TogetHER provides practitioners and advocates opportunities to disseminate and discuss their expertise and experiences with the global cervical cancer community.

In 2024, TogetHER added four webinars to our ongoing series focused on key topics in cervical cancer prevention:

- In January, we hosted a discussion centered around the experiences of cervical cancer survivors profiled in Dr. Linda Eckert's powerful new book, *Enough: Because We Can Stop Cervical Cancer*, moderated by cervical cancer survivor and advocate Eve McDavid, CEO of Mission-Driven Tech.
- Building on our March call to action, TogetHER and AVAC co-hosted a webinar in April focusing on programs working to expand access to HPV vaccination for people living with HIV, featuring panelists from the HIV Survivors and Partners Network, the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), and Jhpiego.
- August saw us showcase our newest Cervical Cancer Grants Program awardees from Slum and Rural Health Initiative, Teal Sisters, and CureCervicalCancer, while offering insights into our grants-making process.
- In December, TogetHER for Health jointly convened a webinar with Cepheid to convene global experts from the WHO, the Kirby Institute for Infection and Immunity in Society, KEMRI, the Female Cancer Foundation, Tulane University, and Jhpiego to highlight existing opportunities and challenges of screen-and-treat approaches and point-of-care HPV testing, provide regional examples of successful screen-and-treat models, and share perspectives on funding and policy needs to drive progress towards global cervical cancer elimination goals.

These webinars and supplementary materials [are archived on TogetHER's website](#).

### Bringing Organizations Driving Cervical Cancer Prevention Efforts TogetHER

TogetHER serves the wider effort of global cervical cancer elimination by offering opportunities for collaboration and connecting organizations from around the world who share our goal of ending cervical cancer deaths around the world.

TogetHER continued to convene and support [our network of member organizations](#): the American Cancer Society,



*Heather White moderates discussion at White House Cancer Moonshot event, January 2024*

the Clinton Health Access Initiative, Global Health Labs, Grounds for Health, Jhpiego, Pathfinder, and Population Services International (PSI). In May, we held our first-ever in-person members meeting in Washington, DC for an in-depth conversation on our collective impact and potential plans as a network. Special thanks to PSI for offering their space to host this energizing conversation.

In addition to the members of TogetHER, we would like to thank our collaborating partners and supporters, including Panorama Global, Rotary International, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the Alabama Department of Public Health, Rotary Clubs of Birmingham and of LaFayette County, Huntsville Hospital Systems, the University of South Alabama and the Mitchell Cancer Institute, Vax to Stop Cancer, Cepheid, Hologic, Roche, Becton Dickinson, the Women to Watch Foundation, Maverick Collective, AVAC, Cervical Cancer Action for Elimination, Cervivor, Colectivo, Scope Impact, the Tiba Foundation, the Matibabu Foundation, Conquering Cancer, and all of the organizations who share TogetHER's commitment to the global elimination of cervical cancer.

Finally, 2024 saw TogetHER welcome the newest member of our small but mighty team when Program Coordinator Megan Wadsworth joined us in April. We're thrilled to have added her substantial talents and dedication to our cause.



## TogetHER We Can End Cervical Cancer

TogetHER for Health continues to target our efforts how and where we think they can have the most impact. As our partnerships grow and evolve, we remain driven by the efforts of programs and practitioners to improve women's health even in the most difficult circumstances, and inspired by the support of our partners.

Every woman's circumstance is different, but the overall goal remains the same: keep that woman, no matter who or where she is, safe from cervical cancer.



*The TogetHER team at the Night Out for Wipe Out Gala, June 2024. L-R: Tom Harmon, External Affairs Director; Kathy Vizas, Co-Founder/Chief Strategy Officer; Heather White, Executive Director; Megan Wadsworth, Program Coordinator*

## TogetHER Members



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WITHOUT  
CERVICAL  
CANCER DEATHS  
IS POSSIBLE.**

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