



## HPV DNA Pilot project Trinidad and Tobago

Moira Lindsay  
Population Services International (PSI)  
PSI-Caribbean

June 2019

#PowerInHerHands



As a global health organization working in more than 50 countries, PSI creates space for women and girls to find their voice and choice.

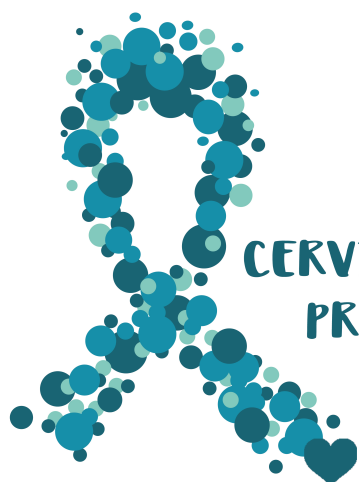
# 50+

national health organizations make up PSI's global network



#PowerInHerHands





## CERVICAL CANCER PREVENTION

#VACCINATESCREENTREAT

#PowerInHerHands



## HPV DNA MOLECULAR TESTING: NEW TECHNOLOGY

- HPV causes almost all cases of cervical cancer
- HPV DNA testing:
  - Collection of a cervical sample or vaginal sample from women 30 years and above; samples processed for high-risk HPV; some machines also detect the type of HPV
  - Most common screening platforms used now are CareHPV and GeneXpert machines

#PowerInHerHands



## WHY PROMOTE HPV TESTING?

- **Objective and Sensitive Results:** samples are analyzed by a machine (as opposed to cytology- both Pap and LBC- and VIA, which are subjective methods)
- **Timely Results:** Samples are analyzed in batches (with our machine- batches of 90), and the laboratory process takes about 2 hours for results to be delivered
- **Longer Screening Interval:** Negative HPV test has a recommended screening interval of minimum 5 yrs (negative cytology/VIA 3-5yrs)

#PowerInHerHands



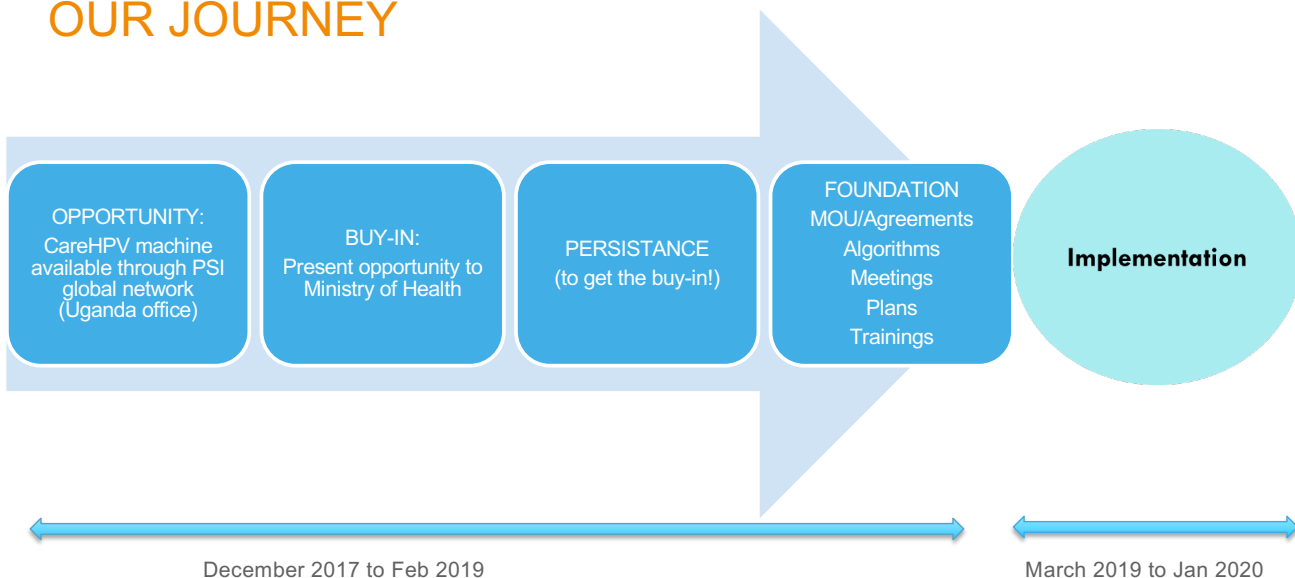
## MORE REASONS TO PROMOTE HPV TESTING...

- **Self Sampling:** vaginal self-sampling an option
- **Integration:** WHO has published guidelines for integrating HPV testing into existing screening programs that use cytology
- **Global Alignment:** Aligns with PAHO/WHO Plan of Action of Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control (2018-2030) and WHO's Global Elimination Agenda

#PowerInHerHands



## OUR JOURNEY



#PowerInHerHands



## ENABLING CONDITIONS FOR THE PILOT'S SUCCESS

- Lack of an existing coordinated national screening program (MoH motivated to receive assistance)
- A few strong supporters within the MoH and local health authority
- Existing agreement with manufacturers of the testing machine
- Technical expertise from global team
- Project donor willing to think outside the box and innovate
- MoH interest in ownership of the project
- A persistent PSI-Caribbean team

#PowerInHerHands



## SUCCESSES THUS FAR

### REACH

HPV Testing  
in 18 public  
Health  
Centers

### COVERAGE

On track to  
test 1500  
women by end  
of 2019

### SCALE

MoH plans to  
offer HPV  
testing  
nationally  
following pilot

#PowerInHerHands



Keep in  
touch!

PSICaribbean

@PSIimpact

mlindsay@psicarib.org



#PowerInHerHands



## GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Any specific questions about the pilot project in Trinidad & Tobago?
- Can anyone else share experiences about working on an HPV screening project? Were experiences similar/different? What stood out for them?
- What about other experiences do you have piloting new technologies- specifically in cervical cancer or perhaps more broadly in women's health?
- Any tips on what elements were critical for success?
- What have been the biggest barriers to adopting new technologies?
- Are there any recommendations from the group regarding how pilots can be scaled up to ensure that the important work continues?



#PowerInHerHands

