# DEPLOYING THERMAL ABLATION:

Lessons from Cervical cancer screening and pre-cancer treatment in Kebbi State











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#### Introduction:

- LMIC accounts for 91% of cervical cancer occur in developing countries, second most cancer among women in Nigeria after breast cancer

- Partners: The Unitaid-CHAI, WHO, and Kebbi State government supported project with Medicaid Cancer Foundation (MCF) to generate demand in Kebbi State.

#### Objective of the project:

- Training and mentoring of healthcare workers on Thermal Ablation
- Cervical cancer screening using VIA and HPV.
- Treatment of lesions using ablation therapy.







# Demography



Kebbi State, Northwest, Nigeria.



### **Approach:**

Deployment and use of 10 thermal ablation devices for screening and treatment of cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN).

Master training of 13 trainers and a step-down training for 100 HCW.

1.

4. Equipping 10 selected health facilities with treatment rooms.

Screening of 5,000 women (currently scaled to 35,000)

2.

Leverage on community and religious gatekeepers to generate demand (MCF).

### Successes

- Trained 100 HCW on the use thermal ablation, HPV sample collection, application of Thermal Ablation, and M&E, cutting across the entire state.
- > 10 facilities selected to collect HPV samples and conduct VIA screening.
- > Between March August, 1,351 eligible women have been screened in selected facilities.
- > 24 women were positive.
- The equipment of 2 treatment rooms with thermal ablation, Gynocular and LEEP in Sir Yahaya Memorial Hospital and Kalgo Medical Centre.
- Portability of thermal Ablation allows for community screening and treatment outreaches, thereby expanding access.



### Challenges

- ➤ Socio cultural factors.
- ➤ Sustained fasting period- Ramadan
- ➤ Superstitious beliefs.
- Transfer of samples to Abuja due to non-utilisation of molecular lab in the state.
- Delay in returning results, thereby causing delay in treatment.







# **Opportunities**

- Organise planned treatment for eligible positive HPV patients Sir Yahaya Memorial Hospital and Kalgo Medical Centre in treatment rooms.
- So far, the wide acceptance of thermal ablation by both healthcare personnels and patients allows for scability.
- Continuous training of healthcare workers on the use of Gynocular and thermal Ablation in August 2022.

#### **Photo Gallery**











