

TOGETHER **HER** *for* **HER** HEALTH



No woman should die from cervical cancer when we know how to prevent it.

Simple, inexpensive care should be available to every woman, no matter who she is or where she lives.

“Through **TOGETHER**, I wanted to do my part to help achieve health justice. I’ve learned so much from the truly heroic people who are working hard to overcome health disparities and save the lives of women in their communities.”



KATHRYN VIZAS
Co-founder and Board Chair
TOGETHER for Health

“We know how to prevent and treat cervical cancer. Now, prevention must be brought to scale. With sustained political will and targeted resources, we can eliminate cervical cancer deaths around the world.”



HEATHER WHITE
Executive Director
TOGETHER for Health

TOGETHER imagines a world where no woman dies from cervical cancer.

We are 100% committed to this aim. And we know that it's achievable.
Our name describes what it takes—working together.

We know prevention saves lives and avoids unnecessary suffering. Now, prevention must be brought to scale. To achieve scale we are collaborating to align resources, foster new skills, advance policies and practices, and build awareness and momentum.

Global prevention and treatment require resources, but are inexpensive compared to the incalculable impact on the lives of a family and community when a woman—mother, wife, neighbor, co-worker—is lost to cervical cancer. Improved care also leads to increased equity for women in their communities and in the workforce, making us all stronger.

We have so many reasons to keep advancing this work, and so many inspiring stories that keep us motivated. We invite you to be part of this global transformation of women's health—working together.

EVERY
2 minutes
a woman dies from
cervical cancer

>90%
of cervical cancers can
be prevented with
HPV vaccination

9–14
ideal age for girls
to receive HPV vaccine



We focus on one issue—cervical cancer.

Formed in 2018, **TOGETHER** is a global partnership focused on ending cervical cancer by:

Advancing political will

- Making critical knowledge accessible to decision makers and advocates
- Mobilizing the funding and political support that countries need to expand effective programs
- Working with First Ladies, national ministries, and other international and local leaders to raise awareness and secure funding for programs

Improving technology and practice

- Collaborating with local partners to scale up high-quality prevention programs in low-resource countries
- Fostering efforts to introduce and scale effective tools and strategies for preventing, screening, and treating cervical cancer
- Piloting and evaluating new programs and technologies that will reach more girls and women

Building awareness

- Spearheading ways to include cervical cancer screening in reproductive healthcare, building on existing investments and helping more women
- Setting the stage for champions—including international and local leaders—to build awareness and momentum
- Amplifying the stories of women and health workers on the frontlines



300,000+ ○.....

cervical cancer deaths
around the world each year

TOGETHER Challenge

Stigma.

Lack of resources.

Fragmented efforts.

Many factors keep us from eliminating deaths from cervical cancer. Our challenge is to overcome these obstacles by informing policy makers, educating providers, and funding programs that reach girls and women around the world.



TOGETHER

takes a three-pronged approach to effect change at multiple levels.

UP
Structural Change

POLICY & ADVOCACY

Advocate with policy makers
for systemic change

OUT
Regional Impact

PARTNERSHIP & EDUCATION

Mobilize on-the-ground partners through
targeted funding and education

DEEP
Cultural Shift

AWARENESS & PERSPECTIVE

Amplify stories and innovations
to inform and inspire

TOGETHER'S IMPACT

Our advocacy, grants, and partnerships have changed care practices around the world. We are making a difference for women and families—and we are just getting started.

NEW YORK • *Influencing international policy*

TogetherHER participates in meetings with top global health decision makers, including the UN General Assembly, UN Population Fund, and Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

WASHINGTON, DC • *Connecting with the new administration*

TogetherHER and 20 supporting organizations request continued leadership and support from the Biden administration for cervical cancer prevention and treatment.

NICARAGUA • *Developing national healthcare*

TogetherHER-funded study evaluates the impact and feasibility of thermal ablation to treat cervical cancer and develops training protocols implemented by the Ministry of Health.

BOTSWANA • *Funding research*

TogetherHER-funded pilot study demonstrates feasibility and acceptability of thermal ablation for cervical cancer treatment. Following WHO's global guidelines, the Ministry of Health and Wellness adds thermal ablation to national practice guidelines.

TOGETHER is building momentum toward our goal to eliminate cervical cancer.



1000s of women and children have been vaccinated, screened, and treated through programs supported by TogetHER

○ SWITZERLAND • *Helping define guidelines*

TogetHER's executive director calls on UNAIDS leadership to support improved integration of cervical cancer and HIV services to address health disparities among girls and women living with HIV.

○ BURKINA FASO • *Advocating for vaccination*

Following TogetHER's presentation at the UN General Assembly, H.E. Sika Bella Kaboré, First Lady of Burkina Faso, expresses need for an HPV vaccination campaign in her country.

○ KENYA • *Increasing awareness*

TogetHER and Scope are partnering with female Kenyan leaders to influence and inspire their communities around cervical cancer prevention and care.

○ MALAWI • *Supplying medical equipment and training providers*

TogetHER helps distribute 200 thermal ablation devices and works with Global Fund and PEPFAR to train providers in their use.

Structural Change

- 2** ministries of health have added thermal ablation to national practice guidelines following the release of WHO guidance and TogetHER-funded acceptability/feasibility studies
- 9** active institutional partners—including the American Cancer Society and Population Services International—are helping TogetHER advocate with policy makers and reach women in need
- 26** organizations signed TogetHER calls to action to integrate cervical cancer screening into family planning and HIV care

Regional Impact

- 30** countries where TogetHER and our partners are making regional impact
- 10** TogetHER-led webinars on cervical cancer best practices have been attended by hundreds of participants around the world

Cultural Shift

- 20** “Faces of Hope” personal stories and other TogetHER case studies show the impact of our programs on real women's lives
- 13** interviews with key leaders in global cervical cancer control have contributed to TogetHER's series on challenges and opportunities in the field



HER STORY

Jackie

Nairobi, Kenya

“I was devastated.
These are two issues:
HIV and cervical cancer.
I saw myself in the
middle, drowning.”

Jackie, a mother of two in her early 40s, is living with both HIV and cervical cancer.

Women living with HIV are particularly vulnerable to cervical cancer. When Jackie began experiencing excruciating abdominal pain and bleeding, along with the persistent weakness and exhaustion caused by HIV, she visited two hospitals and researched healthcare services online before she found a free cervical cancer screening program for patients living with HIV at Coptic Hospital. She knew it was the place she could get help, but it was almost too late. She was diagnosed with cervical cancer and needed a hysterectomy.

“I was devastated,” Jackie says. “These are two issues: HIV and cervical cancer. I saw myself in the middle, drowning.”

Though Jackie’s cancer is now in remission and she is slowly regaining her strength, her situation could have been avoided if cervical cancer screening had been part of the

standard care for HIV. Integrating HIV and cervical cancer services at the same sites is convenient for patients and improves quality of care.

“In the West ... we do Pap smears and cervical cancer screening, so it’s not a leading cause of death,” says Michael Chung, MD, MPH, an affiliate professor of global health at the University of Washington. “But in Kenya, it is, which is really unfortunate and something we can do a lot about.”

As co-founder of the Coptic Hope Center for Infectious Diseases, Dr. Chung is saving lives through cervical cancer research, screenings, and treatment—for patients with and without HIV.

Frances Ford

Marion, Alabama

“Not talking about it is a cultural thing for African American women. Very limited on talking about female problems and issues. They keep it to themselves.”

Cervical cancer is not just a crisis in developing countries. More than 4,000 women die from cervical cancer in the United States each year, and Black women are more likely to die from the disease than any other group. Alabama has the fourth highest cervical cancer mortality among all states.

Fewer than half of Alabama's counties have a practicing gynecologist—and add to that the systemic racial disparity, inequality, and exclusion that contribute to Black women being less likely to receive reproductive health services and follow-up care.

Frances Ford is a tireless advocate for improving healthcare in her Alabama community as executive director of the nonprofit Sowing Seeds of Hope, which hosts no-cost health fairs for residents of all ages in Perry County, Alabama.

Frances has firsthand knowledge of the devastating impact when a community lacks healthcare awareness and access. Her mother, Jeaneen, died from cervical cancer more than three decades ago, when Perry County had

a hospital but no gynecologist. Today it has neither. Early intervention might have saved her mother's life, but something held her back.

“She knew something was wrong,” Frances says. “She didn't know what, but she didn't stop to take care of herself. ... People didn't talk about things like that. They were afraid.”

Grassroots efforts like Sowing Seeds of Hope are helping, even if their reach is limited. Women in her community are becoming more open about reproductive health concerns like HPV and cervical cancer, Frances says, but progress still needs to be made.

“Not talking about it is a cultural thing for African American women. Very limited on talking about female problems and issues. They keep it to themselves,” she says.

TogetHER is partnering with programs in Alabama to promote increased access to care and improved education around sexual and reproductive health in schools, for better long-term health outcomes for women in the state.

Source: Human Rights Watch. November 2018.



A young woman with a headscarf and a blue and white striped dress stands in a dry, brushy landscape. The background is a hazy, sunlit area with sparse, dry vegetation. The woman is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera.

HER CHARACTER

A Closer Look

Women Impacted by **TOGETHER**

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

Zeida Modise

38, caregiver, community member, mother of three
Gabane, Botswana

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

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.

GOALS

- Care for children, husband, and elderly mother
- Work to supplement family income
- Contribute to community

CHALLENGES

- No access to preventive care
- Responsibility for home and family

MOTIVATIONS

FAMILY



HEALTH



FEAR



SOCIAL



DEFINING TRAITS

Family-focused

Strong

Optimistic

Giving

HER JOURNEY

The Ripple Effect of Information and Action

Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment

“Once rural women find support in each other and are determined to take care of their health, then it’s easy to mobilize them to act as a strong collective group that can do anything.”

JAGWATI

Community health worker in Arua, India, trained by the nonprofit Cancer Awareness, Prevention and Early Detection Trust to educate women about cervical cancer screening



AWARENESS

INFORMED

A health worker tells the women in Zeida’s village that they can receive free gynecological screenings at their local clinic.

CURIOUS

Zeida wonders whether she should be worried about her unusual bleeding and pelvic pain. She has never had a preventive gynecological exam and is nervous but wants to stay healthy.

INVESTIGATING

Zeida visits the clinic on the free “open day.” She is diagnosed with cervical precancer, meaning her disease has been caught early.



TREATMENT

ANXIOUS

Zeida is treated in the local clinic with a brief thermal ablation procedure, which has recently been adopted as the standard of care in Botswana. She returns home the same day.

RELIEVED

Zeida recovers well and subsequent checkups show no sign of cervical cancer.

KNOWLEDGEABLE

Having learned that HPV vaccination could have prevented her cervical cancer, Zeida takes her daughters to get vaccinated.



CULTURAL SHIFT

LOCAL IMPACT

Zeida and her family share their story with friends and neighbors, encouraging women to get checked for cervical cancer and to have their children vaccinated. Zeida and her community advocate with local leadership to support additional free clinic days.

GENERATIONAL IMPACT

After being vaccinated for HPV, Zeida's daughters are unlikely to develop cervical cancer in the future. Her older daughter expresses interest in becoming a doctor or nurse to help others.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Zeida remains healthy and productive, able to care for her family, spend time with her friends, and contribute to her community.



TOGETHER

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“If health providers have the tools they need and the proper training and support, if services are offered in such a fashion that they show respect for the woman’s dignity, confidentiality, and safety ... we can eliminate these diseases or detect them early enough so they can be cured.”

GROESBECK PARHAM, MD

*Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of North Carolina
Honorary Consultant, University of Zambia*

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PARTNERS:

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PATH

Pathfinder International

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