



Empowering women to live cancer-free.

Every two minutes, a woman dies from cervical cancer - a preventable tragedy that disproportionately affects low- or middle-income countries; in South Africa, late-stage diagnosis compounds the morbidity and mortality rates of breast and cervical cancer, emphasizing the critical importance of early detection. According to studies, over 75% of cases in South Africa are diagnosed at advanced stages, underscoring significant gaps in screening coverage, especially in rural and peri-urban areas. Likewise, In Peru there were over 4,000 new cervical cancer cases in 2023, ranking as the second most frequent cancer among women aged 15 to 44, with mortality exceeding 2,000 cases annually, as per the *International Agency for Research on Cancer*. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted surveillance efforts, resulting in a decrease of up to 76% of cervical cancer screening tests. While primary prevention through HPV vaccination is pivotal for cervical cancer, secondary prevention strategies, like structured screening programs, are equally essential.

As commitment makers for the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI), Movement Health Foundation has decided to take action against the formidable challenges to women's health globally: during the 4th Digital Health Week, we illustrated how we work to empower women to live cancer-free in various countries of the world.

Movement Health and local partners work on this challenge by leveraging local resources and technologies to improve patient experiences with sustainable and scalable solutions. This innovative approach includes complementary methodologies in different settings, targeting rural and sub-urban populations, developing shared learnings, knowledge and resources that will facilitate the adaptation to different settings and at national scale.

Through this approach, we are expecting to impact 50,000 lives in South Africa and Peru in the initial phase: in South Africa, efforts will focus on awareness-raising, screening facilitation, early referral and adherence to recommendations. Nelson Mandela University, Centre for Community Technologies, in collaboration with CANSA (Cancer Association of South Africa), will develop a user-friendly progressive web app (PWA) to provide the most up-to-date, evidence-based health information on cervical and breast cancer to South African women and men. The app will be open to the public and guide users through the cervical cancer screening process since it will display nearby providers of cervical cancer screening, pre-appointment preparation, and follow-up advice. This digital solution will serve women from rural and peri-urban settings that are not benefiting from the existing platforms for cervical cancer.

Our project in Peru builds on a successful facility-based, workflow improvement model implemented in Cusco, Peru in 2021, which digitized health worker shift scheduling, improving visibility into provider supply and patient demand. By applying this methodology, a solution will be co-created by mapping existing screening capacities, and then building a digital tool for local clinical managers to facilitate referrals and efficiently allocate preventive services for



women at risk of cancer. It will focus on improving cancer screening and care for women aged 30 to 69.

This way, Movement Health Foundation is leveraging the expertise of its member institutions in technological solutions, the local existing partnerships, as well as project coordination and financial support to develop and implement scalable, evidence-based interventions to increase access to life-saving screening services and early cancer diagnosis. We expect this approach will multiply the opportunities for increased international collaboration in digital health and cancer,

Know more about our commitment at:

<https://movement-health.org/new-articles/empowering-women-to-live-cancer-free/>