



# Malawi Program Highlights

Cervical cancer is one of the most common cancers in women living in sub-Saharan Africa, with roughly 110,000 women diagnosed annually; of these women, about 66% will die from the disease. Women living with HIV (WLHIV) are up to six times more likely to develop persistent precancerous lesions and progress to cervical cancer, often with more aggressive forms and higher mortality.

Launched in May 2018 to address this challenge, Go Further is an innovative public-private partnership between the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the George W. Bush Institute, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Merck, and Roche. The partnership collaborates closely with PEPFAR partner governments to strategize on ways to provide services for women from prevention through the cancer journey. Go Further began working in eight countries (Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe), and expanded services to four additional countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda) in fiscal year (FY) 2021. The objectives are to screen all WLHIV on ART between the ages of 25 and 49 for cervical cancer, and to treat pre-invasive cervical cancer lesions to prevent progression to cervical cancer.

## PEPFAR Program Investments

Fiscal Year	Funding Amount	Cervical Cancer Screening Target
FY19	\$5,409,699	42,179
FY20	\$2,199,935	101,507
FY21	\$3,000,000	103,671
FY22	\$3,500,000	147,087
FY23	\$3,500,000	144,150



## Country Context

Total Population  
(July 2022 est.)  
(World Factbook) **20,794,353**

Women Aged 15-49  
HIV Prevalence Rate  
(UNAIDS 2021) **9.4%**

Age-standardized  
Incidence Rate (per 100,000) of  
Cervical Cancer Cases  
(Estimates for 2020)  
(<https://gco.iarc.fr/>) **67.9**

Total # of Women  
(All Ages) On ART  
(PEPFAR, FY22 Q4) **582,290**

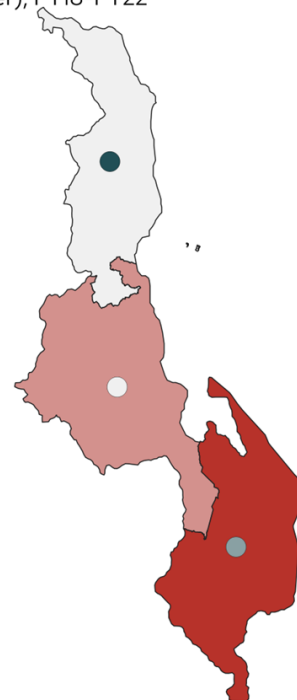
Malawi: Cervical cancer screenings and positives (precancerous lesions or suspected invasive cervical cancer), FY18-FY22

Percent of WLHIV on ART (15+) who were screened and received results positive for precancerous lesions or positive for suspected invasive cervical cancer

- 3.5%
- 3.7%
- 4.6%

WLHIV (15+) on ART screened for cervical cancer

- 27,906
- 111,956
- 250,495

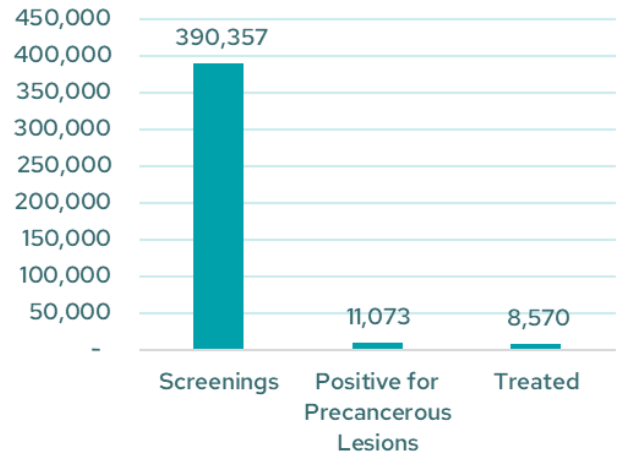


Source: PEPFAR Panorama Spotlight, data.pepfar.gov

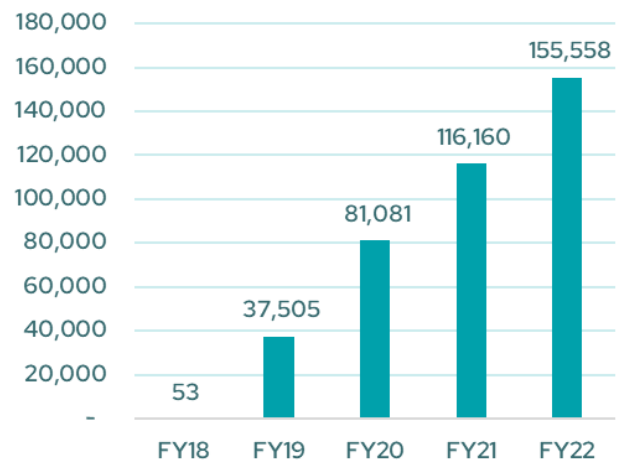
## RESULTS SUMMARY

- ◆ In FY22: 155,558 screenings were performed, representing 106% of the FY22 target; 86% of women who screened positive for precancerous lesions received treatment.
- ◆ Since FY18: 3,532 women have screened positive for suspected invasive cervical cancer. Of the 390,357 screenings, 235,088 (60%) were first time screenings, 3,502 (1%) were follow-up screenings, and 151,767 (39%) were re-screens.

### Cascade, FY18 through FY22



### # of Screenings



## Strategic Direction for FY22

- ◆ PEPFAR worked with the Ministry of Health to introduce loop electrosurgical excision procedure (LEEP) services to all district hospitals (secondary referral level) and strengthened referral networks for WLHIV in need of LEEP and specialized care for those presumed to have cervical cancer.
- ◆ PEPFAR and the Government of Malawi worked hand in hand to ensure that cervical cancer services are fully integrated with HIV services. In facilities where cervical cancer screening is being offered, screening was conducted on ART Clinic day. Clear referral pathways and monitoring mechanisms were put in place to trace women referred to services outside the health centre.
- ◆ To strengthen local level information dissemination and awareness training, PEPFAR Malawi worked with civil society organizations such as the Coalition of Women Living with HIV and AIDS and the Women's Coalition Against Cancer to ensure that targeted communities around the PEPFAR sites received information about related PEPFAR-supported cancer services and how to access.

## Implementing Partners (FY22)

- ◆ The Lighthouse Trust
- ◆ Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
- ◆ Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation
- ◆ Partners In Hope

