

# ELIMINATING CERVICAL CANCER IN THE AMERICAS

Join the Pan American Health Organization to scale up access to life-saving vaccines, testing and treatment for women and girls throughout the Americas region.

**TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE HISTORY!**



Every two minutes, a woman dies from cervical cancer.

This is the **4th most common cancer** in women worldwide.



Women in low and middle-income countries are **disproportionately** affected.

In the Americas region, **79,000 women** are diagnosed and **40,000 women** die, each year

We already have the tools to prevent and treat this disease.

**Elimination is possible!**

**The 90-70-90 targets:**



**90%** HPV vaccine coverage



**70%** screening coverage with high-performing HPV tests



**90%** treatment coverage.

Join PAHO in the path to elimination and let's make the America's region the first to be free from cervical cancer!

Together, we will:

- increase **public awareness** and understanding of HPV, cervical cancer and the potential to eliminate cancer for the first time;
- provide sufficient **supply of HPV vaccination, HPV testing and ablative treatment devices**, to meet the needs of the millions of women and girls who need access;
- **expand skills and capacities of health providers** to deliver services for vaccination, screening and treatment;
- **reduce the gaps in equity** by expanding cervical cancer prevention services in areas with limited access to health care.



For more information about PAHO's cervical cancer elimination initiative and how to get involved, visit PAHO's cervical cancer webpage or contact us: [cervicalcancerelimination@paho.org](mailto:cervicalcancerelimination@paho.org).



**Pan American Health Organization**

# COUNTRY EXAMPLES

## Bolivia - Vaccination

The HPV vaccine was successfully introduced into the national schedule in 2017 for girls aged 10 to 12, utilizing a school-based strategy with an intercultural and community approach. Although coverage rates significantly declined during the COVID-19 pandemic, they subsequently recovered but did not reach the expected targets. Demonstrating a clear commitment to reach the elimination goals, the Ministry of Health shifted to a simplified single-dose scheme in 2023, expanding the target population to girls aged 10 to 14 and boys aged 10.

This significant achievement was supported by PAHO as a technical partner and Gavi as the main donor. The implementation process was part of a comprehensive cervical cancer prevention and control strategy led by the Ministry of Health. The success of this initiative highlights the dedication and commitment of health personnel and technical partners.

## Antigua and Barbuda - Screening

Cervical cancer ranks as the second most prevalent cancer and the third leading cause of cancer-related mortality among women in Antigua and Barbuda. In response, the Ministry of Health, with technical assistance from PAHO, introduced HPV testing in alignment with the regional elimination strategy. PAHO/WHO facilitated training and supported pilot screenings, which culminated in the development of national guidelines.

The PAHO-supported pilot involved the implementation of HPV screening for 1,500 women, with over 125 healthcare providers trained across five health centers. Following this initiative, Antigua and Barbuda became the first country to purchase HPV tests via the strategic fund, aiming to screen 3,000 women annually and achieve the target of 70% of women screened with HPV tests by 2030.

The Minister stressed the critical role of cost-effective interventions in reducing the healthcare burden in resource-limited settings: "These interventions can significantly impact and alleviate the burden on the healthcare system", said the Minister of Health of Antigua and Barbuda, Sir Molwyn Joseph.

## El Salvador - Treatment

El Salvador is at the forefront of HPV primary screening, annually reaching approximately 80,000 women. Those with positive results receive treatment under the "screen and treat" strategy, necessitating thousands of treatments each year. To ensure sustainable management at the primary health care level, the country transitioned from cryotherapy to thermal ablation, with support from PAHO/WHO. As part of this effort, PAHO donated 70 thermal ablation devices to enhance cervical cancer programs, improving early detection and treatment.

**JOIN PAHO IN THIS ELIMINATION INITIATIVE.  
TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE HISTORY!**



**Pan American  
Health  
Organization**