



# WOMEN'S CANCER INITIATIVE

A JOINT COMMITMENT TO SAVE **LIVES**



Pan American  
Health  
Organization



World Health  
Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE  
Americas

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# SAVING WOMEN'S LIVES

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Breast and cervical cancer are **the most common** women's cancers in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Many lives could be saved if women had more **access** to cancer screening, early diagnosis and treatment, and if girls had more access to HPV vaccines.

Women need to be **empowered with knowledge** about how to prevent cervical cancer and detect breast cancer early.

**Preventing** new cancers, detecting them early, and ensuring treatment is a big step forward for women, their families and society.

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## BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER IN THE AMERICAS

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# 400,000

WOMEN ARE  
NEWLY DIAGNOSED  
EACH YEAR



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# 120,000

WOMEN DIE EACH YEAR

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# 70%



INCREASE IN  
NEW CASES BY  
**2030**



THERE ARE MORE  
THAN **300 MILLION**  
**WOMEN** IN THE  
AMERICAS

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## WHY INVEST IN WOMEN'S HEALTH

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- ✓ They are the main supporters of families
  - ✓ They contribute to a countries' development and poverty reduction
  - ✓ They represent half of the workforce in developing countries
  - ✓ They ensure healthy children and families
  - ✓ They promote more friendly and positive environments
  - ✓ They are a key source of change in societies. Investing in women's health contributes to gender equality
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A BIG  
STEP  
FORWARD



## WOMEN'S CANCER INITIATIVE

# 4 LINES OF ACTION



- ✓ **Capacity building**, to strengthen the country's health system.
- ✓ **Research**, for decision making that can change women's lives.
- ✓ **Increased access and program strengthening**, so every woman receives the care she needs.
- ✓ **Communication and advocacy**, for an informed woman to take better care of herself, and her family's health.

## WOMEN'S CANCER INITIATIVE

# A JOINT COMMITMENT TO SAVE LIVES

A public-private partnership led by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) and developed as part of the Pan American Forum for Action on NCDs. It was created to promote innovative solutions for improved access to breast and cervical cancer prevention, care and treatment, so all women can have healthy and productive lives.

# TOGETHER FOR WOMEN



We all share a single mission: no woman should die because she didn't have the information or access to services she needed, or because she was diagnosed too late, or couldn't afford her treatment.

Detected early and treated effectively, cervical and breast cancer can be overcome.

Investments made to prevent, control and treat women's cancers benefit all stages of women's lives, from childhood to adulthood.

**The Women's Cancer Initiative** is a platform for joint action by governments, academia, civil society, private sector and international organizations, to improve the health of women.

Through this platform, all stakeholders are heard, individual efforts are strengthened and successful experiences are shared. Dialogue is facilitated and this leads to multisectoral actions with a wider scope and more potential benefit for girls and women. ■

# 01.



CREATE AWARENESS ABOUT CANCER PREVENTION AND HEALTH CARE

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# 02.



EDUCATE AND INFORM WOMEN ABOUT THE NEED FOR HEALTH CHECKS TO PREVENT CANCER

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# 03.



EMPOWER WOMEN TO MAKE THEIR OWN HEALTH DECISIONS AND SEEK HEALTH SERVICES

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# 04.



ENSURE THAT HEALTH CARE FACILITIES PROVIDE QUALITY SCREENING, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT SERVICES TO ALL WOMEN

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# 05.



FACILITATE ACCESS TO HUMAN PAPILLOMA VIRUS (HPV) VACCINATION

HOW DO WE WANT TO  
OF WOMEN'S



# CHANGE THE SCOURGE OF WOMEN'S CANCERS?



06.

BUILD CAPACITY AMONG HEALTH CARE



07.

STRENGTHEN LABORATORIES FOR ACCURATE  
AND TIMELY DIAGNOSIS



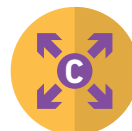
08.

MONITOR AND EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF  
CERVICAL AND BREAST CANCER PROGRAMS



09.

PROMOTE RESEARCH



10.

CREATE CAPACITY FOR EVIDENCE-BASED PUBLIC  
POLICIES FOR WOMEN'S CANCERS



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Pan American Forum for Action on NCDs

For more information visit:

[www.paho.org/cancer](http://www.paho.org/cancer)

[www.paho.org/PanAmericanForum](http://www.paho.org/PanAmericanForum)

[www.facebook.com/pahoncd](https://www.facebook.com/pahoncd)

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