

Mission 2027: The Bold Mission to Eliminate Cervical Cancer three years ahead of WHO's Goal Launched in Kigali, Rwanda

***Stockholm, February 14, 2025* — The takeoff for the bold but fully reachable initiative, Mission 2027, has taken off in Kigali. The Rwandan Ministry of Health, together with the Elekta Foundation, have launched the innovative program including cutting edge technology to support diagnosis and treatment. Over the next three years, there will be an intense focus on screening women for HPV and treating those where cancer is detected.**

Mission 2027 is a national mass screening campaign aimed at reaching 70% screening coverage for HPV and ensuring 90% timely treatment for precancerous lesions and cervical cancer. To date, 28% of eligible women have been screened, with an additional 900,000 women awaiting screening to help achieve this critical target. Rwanda has already vaccinated over 90% of girls by the age of 15 and is now accelerating efforts in other critical areas to meet WHO's goals for screening and treatment. This focus is not only essential for Rwanda but also for other low- and middle-income countries that need much more attention worldwide.

“The Rwanda Ministry of Health is unwavering in its commitment to this cause and this together with the support of both national and international communities. Rwanda aspires to be the first country in Africa to eliminate a cancer that affects women and indirectly impacts families and communities. Our efforts can inspire other African nations and contribute to the global goal of cervical cancer elimination set by the WHO”, says Dr. Sabin Nsanzimana, Minister of Health, Rwanda.

HPV, a sexually transmitted disease, is the primary cause of cervical cancer, which is highly preventable through effective vaccination, screening, and treatment strategies. Integrating these efforts into broader sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) work is crucial to preventing cancer ensuring women's health.

Lacy Hubbard, President of the Elekta Foundation, highlights the crucial need for international collaboration: “We are deeply grateful for the partnership with the Rwanda Ministry of Health and their steadfast dedication to this mission. We now seek to engage with international development agencies, the private sector, and civil society to support Mission2027. With the financial backing of these partners, we can eliminate cervical cancer and secure a healthier future for all women in Rwanda and beyond”.

The launch of Mission 2027 on February 1 was followed by a city walk across Kigali on February 2. Ministers, international decision-makers, the public, and Mission2027 partners came together to showcase the importance of this initiative. Health Inequity must become a thing of the past.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has outlined key targets in its Global Strategy to Accelerate the Elimination of Cervical Cancer as a Public Health Problem: by 2030, 90% of girls should be vaccinated against HPV by the age of 15, 70% of women should be screened for HPV between the

ages of 35 and 45, and 90% of women with cervical pre-cancer or cancer should receive appropriate treatment.

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Elekta Foundation is a non-profit organization with the mission to improve cancer care access in underserved countries. The work is focusing on two areas: Expand Training & Education and Increase Awareness & Prevention. Since inception in 2022 comprehensive work has been initiated in Rwanda with the goal to eliminate cervical cancer and this by collaborating with government, international and local NGOs, healthcare providers and the private sector.

More information on cervical cancer:

-Cervical Cancer Elimination Day of Action, [Cervical Cancer Elimination Day of Action 2024](#)

-About Cervical Cancer, [Cervical cancer \(who.int\)](#)

-About Cervical Cancer Elimination Initiative, [Cervical Cancer Elimination Initiative](#)

-[Global cancer burden growing, amidst mounting need for services \(who.int\)](#)

-WHO Global Strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem, [Global strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem](#)