

WHO and Elekta Foundation Sign Landmark Agreement to Accelerate Cervical Cancer Elimination in Low-Resource Settings

Geneva, Switzerland / Stockholm, Sweden, November 5, 2025.

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Elekta Foundation have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to fast-track efforts toward eliminating cervical cancer in underserved regions, with a particular focus on sub-Saharan Africa.

This strategic collaboration brings together WHO's global leadership in public health with the Elekta Foundation's implementation expertise in cervical cancer screening and prevention. Together, the partners will strengthen country-level action under WHO's Cervical Cancer Elimination Initiative, ensuring alignment with global standards and national priorities.

"Mass cervical cancer screening is not just a public health intervention, it is a transformative act of equity. When we scale screening and treatment programs, we empower women with the chance to live longer, healthier lives, free from a disease that is both preventable and treatable. The benefits ripple far beyond the clinic: improved survival, reduced healthcare costs, and strengthened community resilience. Every woman screened is a step closer to eliminating cervical cancer as a threat to future generations", said Dr. Devora Kestel, Director Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health, World Health Organization.

Over the past three years, the Elekta Foundation has worked closely with the Rwanda Ministry of Health and global experts to implement the FAST model, an innovative framework designed to deliver high-impact, scalable screening services. Built on four pillars: Fast HPV testing, Affordable cost per woman, Systematic tracking, and Timely diagnosis and treatment, the FAST model has already demonstrated success in Rwanda. It plays a catalytic role in advancing **Mission 2027**, Rwanda's national strategy to achieve WHO's 90-70-90 cervical cancer elimination targets 90% of girls fully vaccinated with the HPV vaccine by age 15, 70% of women screened with a high-performance test by ages 35 and 45, and 90% of women identified with cervical disease receiving appropriate treatment three years ahead of the global goal.

"We are proud to partner with WHO to scale proven models like FAST, setting up programs with practical solutions that help countries screen more women with greater efficiency, quality, and impact," said Lacy Hubbard, President & CEO, Elekta Foundation.

Under the MoU, WHO will continue to provide technical leadership, engage Ministries of Health to define national priorities, and ensure policy alignment. The Elekta Foundation will serve as lead implementer, collaborating with WHO, national governments, and local NGOs to build health system capacity for cervical cancer screening, diagnosis, and treatment of precancerous lesions, ensuring timely management before disease progression.

This partnership underscores both the urgency of addressing cervical cancer in low-income countries and the power of collaboration to accelerate progress. Achieving these goals will require continued engagement and investment from the global health community to expand access to screening and treatment, ensuring that every woman, regardless of where she lives, can benefit from timely and equitable cancer care.

Media contact:

Cornilla von Plomgren, External Relations & Partnerships, Elekta Foundation
cornilla.vonplomgren@elektafoundation.com, +46 70 655 31 73

www.who.int

The World Health Organization is the United Nations agency responsible for international public health. Headquartered in Geneva, WHO sets global health standards, provides technical support, and monitors health trends worldwide.

www.elektafoundation.com

Elekta Foundation is a non-profit organization with the mission to improve cancer care access in underserved countries. The work focuses on two areas: Expand Training & Education and Increase Awareness & Prevention.

About:

-Cervical Cancer,

[Cervical cancer](http://www.who.int/cancer/cervical) (who.int)

-Cervical Cancer Elimination Initiative,

[Cervical Cancer Elimination Initiative](http://www.who.int/cancer/elimination-initiative) (who.int)

-Global cancer burden is growing amidst mounting need for services,

-[Global cancer burden growing, amidst mounting need for services](http://www.who.int/cancer/global-cancer-burden) (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](http://www.who.int/cancer/global-strategy) (who.int)

-Mission2027,

[Mission 2027 Elekta Foundation](http://www.elektafoundation.com/mission2027) (elektafoundation.com)