

# MEDICAL WOMEN ASSOCIATION OF TANZANIA (MEWATA)



## Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control Landscape in Displaced Populations

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### MEWATA OVERVIEW

- *MEWATA mission is to support female doctors to provide high-quality health care and provide health services to underprivileged populations.*
- *Our main area in public health, is **prevention.***
- *In cervical cancer thematic area, MEWATA is mainly doing prevention work, specifically on screening of women and advocacy for the HPV vaccine among girls.*

*-Conducting mass/community cervical cancer screening*

*-Advocacy on the importance of HPV vaccine among health care providers (online meetings) and community through radios and TV (we have an agreement with one of the known TVs in Tanzania to free airtime of our work)*

*Upcoming: Advocacy on HPV vaccine to influential leaders*

- *We are currently working with Ministry of Health on advocating for HPV vaccine and specifically now, the single HPV vaccine.*
- *MEWATA gets its funding , mainly from in-country contributors (NGOs, government institutions and private institutions) and sometimes from out-of-the-country donors.*

### Overview of Displaced Populations

- *According to recent data, Tanzania hosts a displaced population of over 400,000 refugees and asylum seekers, with the majority coming from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Most of them are in rural areas.*
- *In Tanzania, cervical cancer is the leading cause of female cancer with a striking 9772 new cases and 6695 deaths each year (Bruni et al, 2018) among women between 15 and 44 years of age.*
- *3.3% of the general population is estimated to harbour HPV, with percentage increasing in displaced population. No specific data on displaced population however.*

### Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control

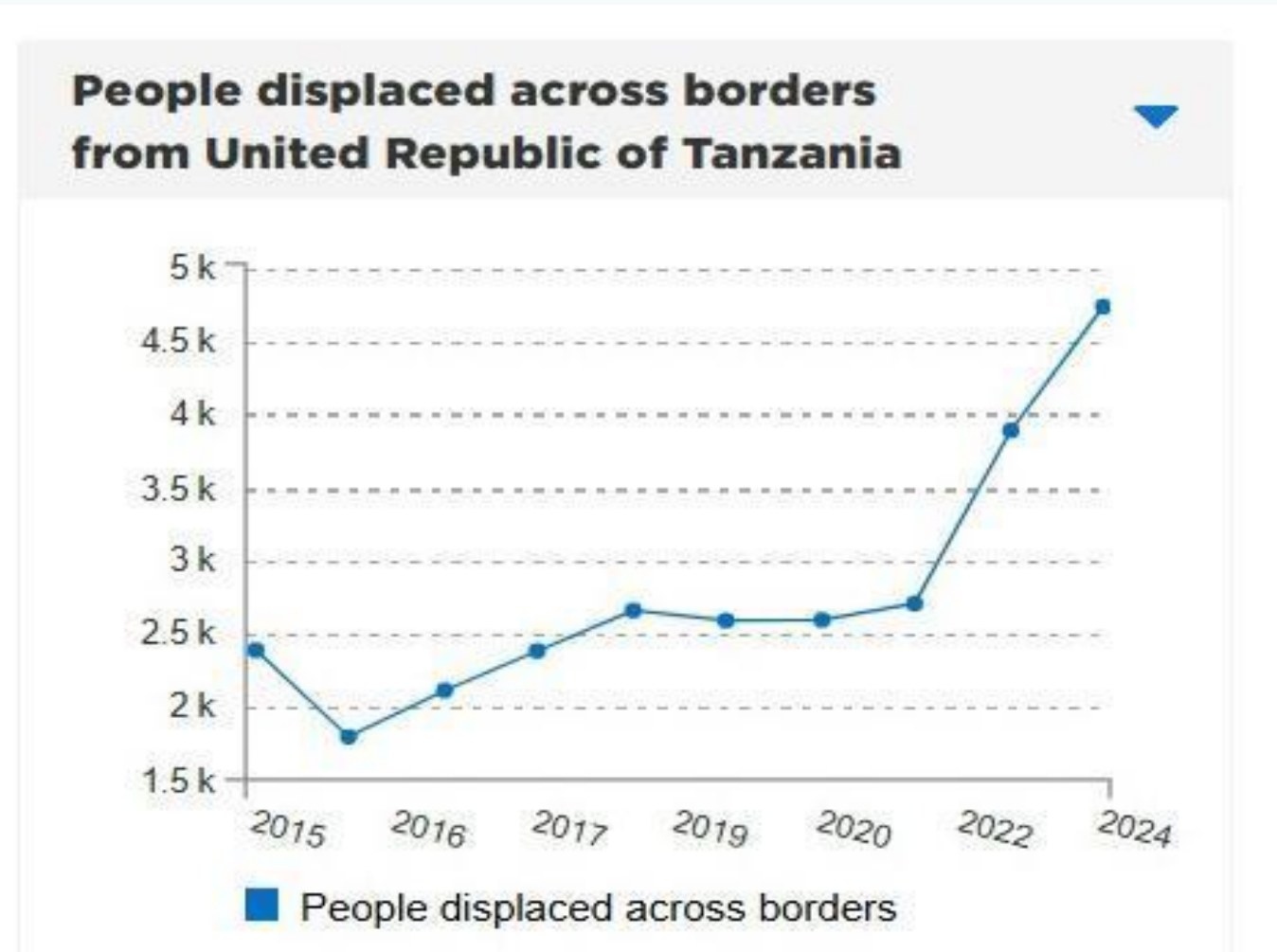
- *HPV vaccination – is offered to eligible girls in the whole country*
- *MEWATA is normally providing cervical cancer screening to hard-to-reach/undereprivileged population*



### Barriers to Access and Implementation Among These Populations

- *The main barrier to access the cervical cancer prevention in Tanzania is poverty. General population do access when there are free services which are available as per the funding availability.*
- *Good policies for prevention are available and implemented.*

**Way Forward**-More effort should be put in the area of Cervical Cancer Prevention in the displaced population in Tanzania taking the fact of the instability of the political situation of the neighboring countries and increasing number of displaced population to 400,000+



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