



Clinton Health Access Initiative & Unite for Health Foundation



Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control Landscape in Displaced Populations

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Who we are



The Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) is a global health organization whose mission is to save lives and improve health outcomes in low- and middle-income countries by enabling the government and private sector to strengthen and sustain quality health systems. CHAI began work in Cameroon in 2007 with a focus on improving access to HIV diagnosis, care, and treatment, and has since evolved to include cross-cutting health system strengthening efforts, including the introduction of new vaccines for diseases such as cancer-causing human papilloma virus (HPV).



Unite for Health (U4H) is a non-for-profit NGO whose mission is to combat maternal and child mortality by providing access to affordable healthcare in underserved communities in rural Africa. U4H has over a decade of experience providing health care that saves mother's lives in rural Cameroon, reaching out in innovative ways to bring maternal healthcare, screenings, and health education to the women who need it the most.

Our work

Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI)

Vaccine introduction: Coordinated and led the HPV vaccine introduction, as well as the **post-introduction assessment of the vaccine** to uncover key insights, lessons learnt and best practices that could be leveraged to improve the HPV vaccination program.



HPV vaccination Integration: Spearheaded the mapping of health and non-health interventions for integration with HPV vaccination and led the piloting of the most promising approach, integration into the school health program.



Decision making on HPV vaccination: Accompanied the EPI in the decision-making process for the switch to a one dose schedule and gender-neutral vaccination which became effective as from January 2023.



HPV MAC campaign planning: Supporting the country to put together a robust proposal for submission to Gavi for the implementation of a Multi Age Cohort (MAC) HPV vaccination campaign targeting girls aged 10 - 18 years of age.



HPV vaccine hesitancy: CHAI is working with CSOs to engage and leverage the influence of traditional and religious leaders to improve acceptance of the HPV vaccine.



CHAI is also working to **develop and trial innovative approaches for delivery of the HPV vaccine in settings usually missed by routine services:** Hard to reach, Conflict zones, Nomads, Indigenous populations and urban slums.

Unite for Health (U4H)



Cervical cancer screening: U4H provides free cervical cancer screening services to women in the conflict afflicted town of Bamenda, Northwest, Cameroon, as part of commemorations of the International Women's day

Impact on cervical cancer prevention & control

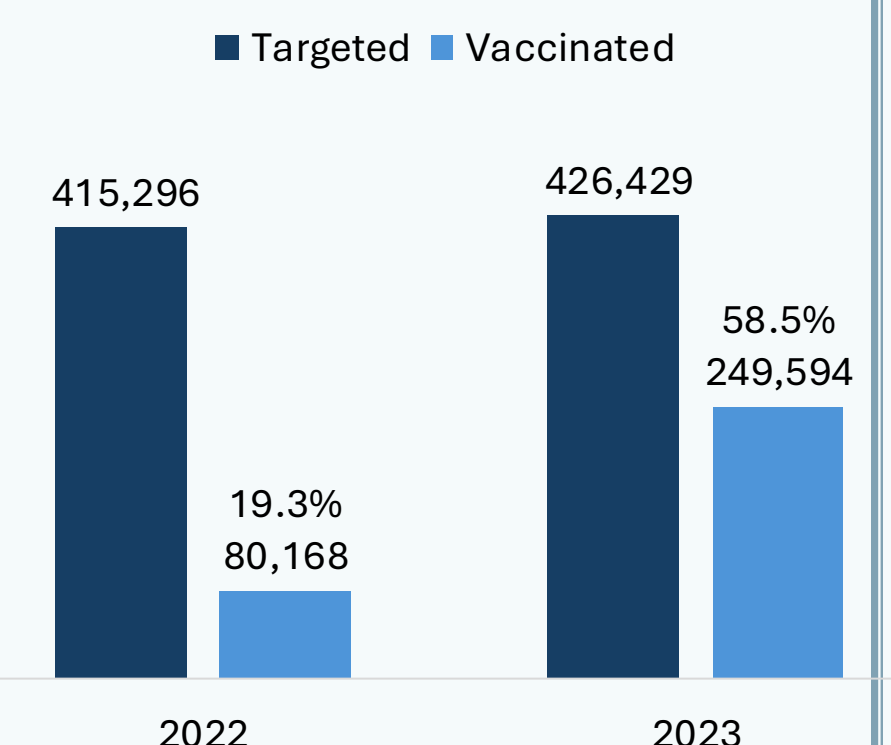
~ 180,000 nine-year-old girls vaccinated from CHAI led HPV vaccine introduction efforts.



~ 4500 thousand adolescents (2,125 girls) vaccinated against and protected from cervical cancer as a result of the CHAI led HPV vaccination feasibility and acceptability pilot into the school environment conducted in 03 health districts across 02 regions of the country.

62,571 girls aged 9 – 12 years

vaccinated in 2023 as a result of key programmatic changes (single dose and gender-neutral vaccination) coupled with the implementation of community dialogues (CDs) followed by Periodic Intensification of Routine Immunization (PIRI) activities in **60 districts across all 10 regions** of the country. This translated into an HPV vaccination coverage of 56.8% amongst girls at the end of 2023, up from 19.3% in 2022.



Ongoing work with CSOs anticipated to increase HPV vaccination coverage in project target cities of Baffoussam, Douala and Yaounde by ~20% by the end of 2025.

219 women sensitized on cervical cancer and screened via a pap smear during the 6-week community outreach session organized by Unite for Health during International women's day 2022 In Bamenda.



Way forward

- Engage and involve religious and traditional leaders early on in the immunization services planning process and leverage their influence to reach their communities with vaccination services.
- Develop practical and scalable context-specific strategies to integrate HPV vaccination with cervical cancer sensitization, screening and pre-treatment services and vice versa. es to enhance immunization coverage for key antigens such as HPV, MR (especially MR-2), and to improve control of other VPDs like cholera.

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