

Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control Landscape in Displaced Populations

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Organization's Role and Activities

- PATH is a global team of innovators working to accelerate health equity so all people and communities can thrive.
- PATH's mission is to advance health equity through innovation and partnerships.
- For more than 40 years, PATH has been working across sectors and borders to forge unexpected partnerships that improve the health of millions—and in some cases, hundreds of millions.
- At the global level, PATH is the world's neutral expert—advising normative bodies, coordinating multistakeholder efforts, and evaluating programs, products, and policies.
- At the community and country levels, PATH partners with governments and provide technical assistance to help them achieve their goals—strengthening health systems, eliminating deadly diseases, responding to epidemics, and developing and introducing new vaccines, affordable medical devices, equitable policies, and more.
- Since 2007, PATH has implemented high-impact, evidence-based projects in collaboration with the government of Ethiopia to sustainably improve public health and save lives.
- PATH is currently implementing the Merck foundation funded-HPV Multiage Cohort and the Gavi-funded Technical Assistance projects. PATH deploys in-school and out-of-school strategies to ensure all eligible girls, particularly IDP, are vaccinated through temporary outreach and mobile vaccination service delivery.
- Since 2018, PATH helped to vaccinate **over 14.7 million** girls with a single dose of the HPV vaccine (HPV 1) before exposure to and acquisition of HPV infection and **4.2 million** girls with the second dose of the HPV vaccine (HPV 2).
- PATH also supported the HPV Multi Age Cohort vaccination campaign which helped to vaccinate **more than 7 million girls** of age 9-14.

Barriers to Access and Implementation Among IDP

- Lack formal camps/shelters
- Frequent conflicts disrupted movements

The Way Forward

- Share and scale up promising practices and lessons learned on HPV vaccination with stakeholders and other IDP/refugee sites in the country.
- Enhance gender-inclusive social mobilization and community dialogue interventions to reach the target population with key HPV messaging.
- Work in collaboration with Rapid response system , Disaster Preparedness, and Food security Prevention Commission, camp leaders, health and other stakeholders to facilitate and reach the target group in IDPs and refugee settings.



Overview of Displaced Populations

- Ethiopia hosts over 823,000 refugees and asylum seekers, mainly from South Sudan, Somalia, and Eritrea residing in 24 refugee camps spread across five regional states.
- Over 70,000 refugees reside in Addis Ababa as urban refugees, among whom 47% are women and girls, an 59% are children.
- An estimated 4.5 million internally displaced people (IDP) are spread across rural and urban areas.
- Displacement is most prominent in the Somali, Oromia, Amhara, and Tigray regions.
- Conflict in the Northern Ethiopia and localized tensions in various parts of the country are major causes of displacement.
- IDP often experience post-traumatic stress disorder due to traumatic events and are more vulnerable to diseases due to overcrowded and impoverished conditions.

Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control

- HPV vaccination is offered annually to eligible IDP and refugee populations through fixed, temporary outreach, and mobile service delivery strategies.
- Ethiopia is routinizing HPV vaccination for 9-year-old girls.
- Ongoing conflict in the Amhara region has disrupted vaccination efforts, with only 5% of the vaccination target achieved.
- Despite progress in vaccination, cervical cancer screening for IDP populations remains insufficient, even in health facilities due to lack of formal camps/shelters, with most displaced individuals living with host communities and lack of systems in place to ensure continuity of care for displaced individuals requiring long-term solutions for HPV-related conditions.
- PATH implemented the "**Hit and Run**" vaccination strategy to reach IDP and refugees.
- The approach involved collaboration with regional health bureaus, zonal health departments, and woreda health offices by closely coordinating with health workers, community leaders, IDP networks, and health extension workers to monitor conflict patterns, develop micro-plans, and conduct community mobilization.
- Vaccination sessions were strategically scheduled according to conflict patterns and integrated with COVID-19 mass vaccination efforts.
- The approach helped in achieving **96% coverage** for HPV vaccination