

# ILERA – Community Health Initiative



## Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control Landscape in Displaced Populations

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**ILERA works to tackle systemic inequalities that prevent underserved women and girls from accessing healthcare in Nigeria**

**ILERA provides FREE healthcare screening/ vaccines for IDPs living in Abuja and Katsina State Nigeria**

- Cervical cancer screening
- Breast examination
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- HPV vaccine
- Primary healthcare

ILERA – IDP HPV rollout – Oct 24



**Nigeria has the 3rd largest number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Africa, with 3.3million displaced from their homes.**

### ➤ Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control in Nigeria

- In October 2023, Nigeria integrated the single-dose human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine into its routine immunization program, aiming to protect 7.7 million girls aged 9 to 14 years.
- Cervical cancer affects more than half a million women each year globally, Nigeria contributes significantly to the global burden with an incidence of 18.4 per 100,000 women (vs global average of 13.3 per 100,000 women).
- Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in Nigeria, surpassed only by breast cancer among women. Approximately 14,943 women in Nigeria are diagnosed with cervical cancer annually, and 10,403 of them eventually die from the disease.
- The accessibility to cervical cancer screening is extremely poor for IDPs in Nigeria. Screening is limited and the cost is high and unaffordable to many women especially IDPs.
- ILERA is the first organisation to focus on providing FREE cervical cancer screening to displaced women in Abuja.
- ILERA is working with partners and referral agencies including the Nigerian Primary Healthcare Board to ensure displaced populations living in FCT Abuja are supported and treated for HPV related conditions.

## Barriers to Access and Implementation Among IDPs in Nigeria

In Nigeria there is no National screening program for cervical cancer. Absence of information and poor access to health causes most women in Nigeria to be diagnosed at advanced disease stages, resulting in restricted treatment options and high mortality rates. For IDP women the situation is desperate due to poor education and awareness, financial barriers, shortage of health works and access to care.

### The Way Forward

Resources designated for cancer care will be most effective if they strengthen primary care and the entire health system and are integrated into platforms already in place for other diseases. Integrating cervical and breast cancer screening services into existing delivery platforms for sexual, reproductive, and maternal health services will be an effective and efficient strategy.

Cervical cancer prevention strategies that include the HPV vaccine and visual inspection with acetic acid and same visit cryotherapy are cost effective and accessible.

**ILERA and partners need support to ensure all IDPs in Abuja have access to these services**

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