



Costa Rica Mammography project report - June 2020
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Executive Summary:

This project was created in alignment with one of HERhealthEQ's main pillars of service, Breast Cancer. The objective was to deliver equipment that would assist in the reduction of mortality, screening positivity and cancer detection rate in Costa Rica. This project deployed one mammography unit to the Hospital Tony Facio Castro in Limón, Costa Rica.

Introduction:

Established in 2016, HERhealthEQ was born out of a need to reduce the equity gap in access to healthcare for women around the world. What began as a singular donation of a mammography machine to a Costa Rican hospital, has now grown into an international web of healthcare solutions. The HERhealthEQ team is driven by a desire to see fewer women face the choice between their own healthcare and putting food on the tables of their families.

Our Mission is to improve women's health in developing countries by providing access to medical devices & equipment, creating an equitable standard of care. This project served as the first, "unofficial" deployment for HERhealthEQ.

From 2009 to 2011, the number of mammograms performed at Hospital Tony Facio Castro in Limón, Costa Rica declined sharply, from 2,600 to just 685 annually. This decline in women screened for breast cancer was attributed to old machinery frequently going out of service.

In October of 2013, HERhealthEQ CEO Marissa Fayer, teamed up with Hologic and Fundacion Anna Ross to donate a mammography machine to the hospital. In the years that followed, the number of women who died from breast cancer decreased significantly, from 19 in 2013 to 12 in 2015. This decline has occurred even as the number of women diagnosed with tumors has risen. This important outcome is a testament to the need for high-functioning screening equipment and a commitment to regularly screening at-risk women.

Key Milestones:

- The latest metrics from this project show a 400% increase in mammograms performed in the Limón region of Costa Rica
- Over 3,000 screenings are being conducted annually

Project activities:

The socioeconomic status of women in Costa Rica reflects the country's commendable progress in promoting gender equality. Overall, Costa Rican women actively participate in the workforce, benefit from enhanced access to education, and enjoy improved healthcare services. However, within the Limón region, situated on the picturesque Caribbean coast, certain disparities persist, partly due to historical marginalization and limited access to economic opportunities. Additionally, healthcare access for women in Limón can be more challenging compared to other regions, which may affect their overall well-being. Nevertheless, Costa Rica remains dedicated to gender equality, implementing initiatives to empower women and address regional inequalities. These efforts strive to elevate the socioeconomic status of women in Limón, exemplifying the nation's commitment to ensuring equitable access to healthcare and economic opportunities for all women across diverse regions.

In 2020/21, we continued our partnership with Fundacion Anna Ross. Fundacion Anna Ross secured three months of on-loan medical staff from national associations allowing services to begin while long-term staff are hired. The space will focus on the detection of cervical, breast, skin and lung cancer and HERhealthEQ will facilitate the donation of the necessary equipment.

Results and Impact:

- 18,400 Women have been screened since the project's inception
- Laid the foundation for an ongoing and strong relationship with partner organization Fundacion Ana Ross (now a strategic partner in our Costa Rican deployment of the 10-for-10 project)
- This project highlighted the importance of having local partners support for obstacles that arise with language barriers



Financial Summary:

Equipment value:

Item	Cost (USD)
(1) Mammography unit	\$33,000
Total	\$33,000

Conclusion:

Overall, HERhealthEQ is satisfied with the progress of this project. The project is a true reflection of HERhealthEQ's mission to bring equity in access to women's healthcare. We are grateful to the corporations and individuals who graciously donated to our project, as well as the HERhealthEQ, Hologic, and Fundación Ana Ross team members who made this project possible.