



Jamaica Cervical Cancer Project report - 2017 / 2018
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Executive Summary:

This project was created in alignment with one of HERhealthEQ's main pillars of service, Cervical Cancer. The objective was to deliver equipment that would assist in the reduction of mortality rate in Jamaica as seen in women who test positive for abnormal cervical cells. The highlights of this project include a growing utilization of the colposcope not only at the home hospital, but at 20 additional external healthcare centers as well.

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.

Cervical cancer is a significant health concern in Westmoreland, Jamaica, with reported higher incidence rates compared to global averages. Limited access to regular screenings and healthcare resources contributes to delayed detection and treatment of cervical cancer cases in the region. Efforts by local health authorities and NGOs have been underway to raise awareness, provide education, and promote early detection and prevention strategies to combat cervical cancer in Westmoreland.

HERhealthEQ partnered with Lutech to facilitate the donation of a colposcope at the same time as our ultrasound delivery to the Savannah - La - Mar General Public Hospital. This Jamaican hospital serves a population of over 150,000 patients annually. Despite serving a vast portion of Western Jamaica, including the 20 local primary care health centers that feed into the hospital, the hospital lacks many of the necessary resources to treat such a large population.

HERhealthEQ CEO Marissa Fayer, and then Executive Director Michelle Skaer traveled to Savanna-la-Mar to see firsthand the equipment in use. During their visit, they spoke with hospital staff

and patients to gain a sense of how the equipment might improve services at the hospital, gaining a more in depth understanding of just how important access to this piece of screening equipment is.

Key Milestones:

- 5036 women screened as of end of 2022
- Alignment of objectives with HERhealthEQ's commitment to delivering healthcare services to women in underserved communities.

Project details:

In Westmoreland, Jamaica, the socio-economic status of women reflects a complex landscape of challenges and opportunities. While progress has been made in recent years, disparities persist. Many women are engaged in informal sectors, facing limited access to formal employment and higher education. Gender-based wage gaps and unequal distribution of resources remain concerns. However, empowered by community initiatives and local organizations, women are gradually breaking barriers. Through skill development programs and entrepreneurship support, these women are actively working towards improved economic independence, stronger representation, and a brighter future for themselves and their communities.

- Cervical Cancer mortality rates in Jamaica are 22 in every 100,000 women. By comparison, in the UK the rate is 2.4 in every 100,000, and 2 in Canada.
- This project serves the Westmoreland region of Jamaica, female population of 72,959

This project's impact went beyond just the hospital, allowing for 20 external care centers to also have access to the technology, thus expanding our reach. The Colposcope was delivered and put to use immediately, minimizing the lead time between securing the device and implementation into the healthcare system. The receptiveness of the on the ground health care teams led by Dr. Alfred Dawes allowed for faster training and immediate usage.



Financial Summary:

Value of deployed equipment:

Item	Value of deployed equipment (USD)
Lutech LT-300 colposcope	\$10,600
Total	\$10,600

Conclusion:

Since deployment, the project has been sustained by the field healthcare teams at Savannah - la - Mar General Public Hospital. HERhealthEQ communication contracts between donor recipients and our organization state that metrics must be provided for the first 2 years of device usage. Due to this, we have not received any updated metrics directly from the hospital over the last year. It is our intent to reconnect with Dr. Dawes and resume data sharing for accuracy purposes.

HERhealthEQ is grateful to all the individual donations that helped make this project a reality, including our partners at Lutech for the equipment. Without our supporter's help, we would not be able to impact the lives of women around the world.