



Tanzania Project report - September 2022

Published: September 2023

---

### **Executive Summary:**

HERhealthEQ donated equipment to detect and treat cervical cancer in 5 major geographic areas in Tanzania - Kilimanjaro, Tanga, Singida, Mwanza, and Kigoma - addressing the country's 38% rate of cervical cancer. HERhealthEQ partnered with MedGyn Products, Inc. and Tanzanian company, SkyConnect to donate cryoablation equipment, and cervical cancer screening platform, SEVIA, that leverages mobile health for real-time cervical cancer screening. This initiative is saving the lives of women by detecting and treating cervical cancer, additionally helping to develop the skills of local physicians in the more remote areas of Tanzania.

In January 2022, HERhealthEQ launched a second project, deploying two Lutech Colposcopes and two Wisap Thermoablation devices. The WAJAMAMA Clinic in Zanzibar, Tanzania, will be able to screen and treat 250 women per quarter, drastically assisting in the reduction of instances of cervical cancer in the country.

### **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 was designed to focus on providing full circle support to the women of Tanzania, assisting with detection (mobile screening service), treatment (both cryo and thermal ablation) and follow up care. By partnering with local field providers motivated by strong support from the government, HERhealthEq was able to institute a project that not only takes care of women during and after cervical cancer detection and treatment, but educates and encourages the female population within the community to actively seek out initial check-ups. This is one of the most important factors in lowering the incidence rate of cervical cancer.

**Key Milestones:**

- Over 500 women treated since inception
- Strengthening of equipment partnerships with MedGyn, SEVIA, Wisap and Skyconnect
- Strengthening of strategic partnership with the Wajamama clinic.
- HERhealthEQ has provided cryoablation equipment to freeze precancerous and early stage cancerous cells to stop their progression.
- This enables the "See and Treat" methodology, as it can be done in clinic, instantly, and the procedure is painless - requiring only 1 to 2 minutes per patient.

**Project activities:**

In Tanzania, the socioeconomic situation for women is a tapestry woven with challenges and progress, with cervical cancer adding an additional layer of concern. While strides have been taken, gender disparities persist, as women often grapple with limited access to education and healthcare, particularly evident in rural areas. Traditional roles and norms can hamper economic opportunities, leading to lower workforce participation and unequal wages. The burden of cervical cancer further exacerbates health challenges, with Tanzania having one of the highest incidence rates globally. However, collaborative efforts from NGOs, community organizations, and the government are striving for change. Initiatives encompassing women's empowerment, education, and cervical cancer awareness are gaining traction, igniting optimism for improved socioeconomic prospects, health outcomes, and gender equality in the nation.

Women in the Zanzibar, Kilimanjaro, Tanga, Singida, Mwanza, and Kigoma regions of Tanzania play diverse and integral roles within their communities. While cultural norms can sometimes limit their access to education and economic opportunities, women are increasingly engaging in various sectors. In the Kilimanjaro and Tanga regions, tourism and agriculture provide avenues for women's participation, often contributing significantly to their families' livelihoods. In Singida, Mwanza, and Kigoma, women actively contribute to agriculture, trade, and small-scale businesses, gradually challenging traditional gender roles and striving for enhanced economic empowerment and gender equality.

**Results and Impact:**

- Thermal Ablation and Mobile screening system:
  - 2018 - 2020: 38 biopsies and 52 treatments
  - 2020 - 2022: 364 women screened and treated
- Lutech Colposcopy system
  - 2022: 300 women screened

While in Tanzania, CEO Marissa Fayer met with several regional health directors to understand their top priorities and concerns. They each indicated cervical cancer as their biggest concern for women’s health.

The Minister of Health and the Vice President of Tanzania, ***who are both women***, have committed to screening more than 3 million women for cervical cancer within the next 2 years. HERhealthEQ believes that screening is important, and the need for early intervention and treatment as soon as cervical cancer is detected is critical. Routine screening is the most valuable asset in the fight against cervical cancer.

**Financial Summary:**

Deployed equipment value:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost (USD)</b>
Cryotherapy unit	\$3,700
(4) Thermal Ablation unit	\$11,000
(4) LT-300 Colposcope	\$11,800
SEVIA / Skyconnect program	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$26,500</b>



**Conclusion:**

Since deployment, the project has been sustained by the field healthcare teams at various sites within Tanzania. 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 the healthcare teams to resume data sharing for accuracy purposes. We want to ensure education materials are also available to continue to spread awareness, encourage usage and inturn uplift the community as a whole through an investment into women's healthcare access.

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