



HPV Vaccines: Evidence for Impact

HPV Vaccines: Evidence for Impact is a new, large 5-year project to be funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The project's research and demonstration projects in India, Peru, Uganda, and Vietnam will generate key data that developing countries need to make evidence-based decisions about public sector introduction of HPV vaccines.

Cervical cancer is a preventable disease, affecting an estimated 490,000 women each year, and leading to more than 270,000 deaths. About 85 percent of women dying from cervical cancer reside in developing countries. Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the primary cause of cervical cancer. Six types of HPV account for about 85 percent of cervical cancer cases worldwide; two of these types—16 and 18—account for 70 percent of cases (though regional variations exist). In clinical trials, vaccines against HPV 16 and 18 are at least 95 percent effective in preventing persistent HPV infection and 100 percent effective in preventing type-specific cervical lesions.

The project has three primary objectives:

- To generate critical data and experience for evidence-based decision making, strengthening essential health system capabilities, and creating a supportive social and political climate for national readiness in four countries.
- To leverage country introduction activities to inform and support global advocacy efforts, regional HPV vaccine strategies, and country government introduction plans.
- To develop and disseminate strategic forecasts, investment cases, and decision-making tools to inform and influence industry production capacity and pricing decisions, international agency financing initiatives and country government introduction plans.

Country work will be the central focus of the proposed project since it will answer key questions that countries around the world face as they consider adoption and implementation of HPV vaccine programs. Such questions include: what sociocultural barriers may impede acceptance of the vaccine; how can the vaccine be most effectively delivered to adolescent girls; what dose regimen variants that may boost coverage rates compared with standard regimens; how can HPV vaccine be integrated into (and strengthen) existing health programs; what are the cost implications of an HPV vaccine program (including the ultimate public-sector price); and what combination of program activities (including screening and treatment services) could have the most impact on cervical cancer rates. The proposed project will answer these questions and more through in-country research and research and demonstration projects and through developing a global demand estimate for HPV vaccine that will help to even in the poorest regions of the world.