

CASE STUDY: EPICC

Supporting Pacific and Southeast Asian countries to advance their cervical cancer elimination goals



The Challenge: Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women globally. Low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) bear a disproportionate burden, accounting for nearly 90% of cervical cancer deaths in 2022. And yet, cervical cancer is one of the most preventable cancers and can be eliminated using evidence-based interventions. The challenge is to embed these life-saving interventions, HPV vaccination of girls and HPV screening for women with treatment of precancers and cancer for those who need it, into health services in an end-to-end, sustainable manner and accelerate implementation of the WHO Global Strategy and targets.

Initiative:

The Elimination Partnership in the Indo-Pacific for Cervical Cancer (EPICC) is a four-year (2024–2028) multi-country initiative, supported by the Australian Government and the Minderoo Foundation. EPICC is the first end-to-end program supporting Ministries of Health in the Indo-Pacific region to achieve their goals to accelerate the WHO Global Strategy. Currently EPICC supports governments and partners in Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu to strengthen cervical cancer primary prevention, screening, and treatment.

Impact:

- Through EPICC and its forerunner programs (ECCWP and Program ROSE), **more than 92,506 women have been screened with HPV tests** to date (July 2025).
- **canSCREEN™ has been configured and deployed in eight EPICC-participating countries**, and adopted by 14 countries globally, complementing and integrating with existing electronic health systems.
- **Over 100 healthcare workers**, including nurses, midwives and doctors, have participated in EPICC-supported training.

Delivering Accountability

EPICC prioritises strengthening digital health registries for case management, monitoring and evaluation, enabling robust data collection and patient follow-up. The program introduces canSCREEN™, a not-for-profit Australian digital cancer screening registry solution, ensuring screening data is recorded, monitored, and used to support timely follow-up – including reminders, result notifications and re-calls for women.

Success factors:



- **Local leadership, global alignment:** EPICC supports countries' leadership and vision to accelerate Cervical Cancer Elimination, ensuring that global approaches are tailored to national priorities, contexts, and health system capacities.
- **Collaboration:** EPICC fosters networks among cervical cancer elimination experts at local, regional and global levels, allowing the program and partners to leverage the right information and expertise at the right time.
- **Evidence-informed and adaptive:** Grounded in decades of research, clinical trials, and elimination modelling expertise, EPICC integrates evidence with practice. Its diverse partnerships—spanning academic, clinical, and implementation stakeholders—enable rapid translation of emerging evidence into practice.



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