



BE HE@LTHY BE MOBILE

A handbook on how to implement
mCervicalCancer



World Health
Organization



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ACRONYMS

AEFIs	Adverse events following injections
BHBM	“Be He@lthy, Be Mobile”
CCS&PT	Cervical Cancer Screening & Preventative Therapy
CECAP	Cervical Cancer Prevention Program
HCP	Healthcare professional
HPV	Human papillomavirus
IARC	International Agency for Research on Cancer
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
IAEA	Atomic Energy Agency
ICC	Invasive cervical cancer
LEEP	Loop electrosurgical excision procedure
LMICs	Low- and middle-income countries
mHealth	Mobile technology
MST	Marie Stopes International Tanzania
NCDs	Noncommunicable diseases
SEVIA	Smartphone enhanced VIA
SMS	Short message system
TAG	Technical Advisory Group
VIA	Visual Inspection with acetic acid
VILI	Visual Inspection of the Cervix with Lugol’s Iodine
VUCCnet	Virtual University for Cancer Control
WHO	World Health Organization
ZICTA	Zambia Information and Communication Technology Authority

Purpose

“Be He@lthy, Be Mobile” (BHBM) is a global initiative, led by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), based on mobile technology for health (mHealth) – particularly text messaging and mobile applications (apps) – to address noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular diseases and chronic respiratory diseases. The initiative originated in response to the outcome of the First Global Ministerial Conference on Healthy Lifestyles and Noncommunicable Disease Control – the Moscow Declaration (WHA64.11) and the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (A/RES/66/2), to identify concrete actions to be undertaken by Member States, and actions to be included in the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2013–2020. This marked an active decision by WHO to scale up activities using innovative technologies to reduce the global burden of NCDs. The initiative is in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.

This handbook was prepared by an international group of cervical cancer experts for WHO and ITU and is intended to provide evidence-based operational guidance and resources for implementing mobile phone-based support (mHealth) for cervical cancer prevention and control. It describes how an mHealth cervical cancer control (mCervicalCancer) programme can be used to strengthen existing cervical cancer prevention and control programmes, and illustrates the steps required for successful implementation. The handbook has been informed by WHO guidelines for comprehensive cervical cancer prevention and control, and is intended for adaptation by Member States in their efforts to support national guidelines on cervical cancer prevention and control.

The handbook describes the considerations and decisions to be made in planning for a national mCervicalCancer programme in five areas:

1. Operations management
 - a. Needs assessment
 - b. Programme leadership and partnerships
 - c. Work plan development
2. Content development and adaptation
3. Technology
4. Promotion and recruitment
5. Monitoring and evaluation.

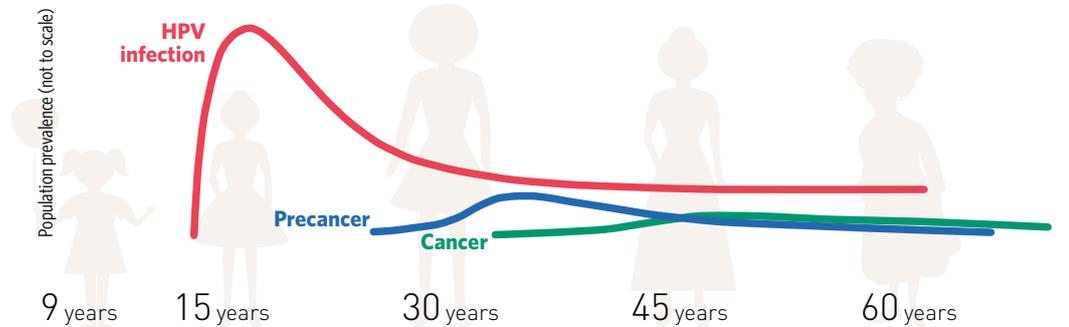
The annexes include examples of key messages and content, lessons learnt, examples of mCervicalCancer programmes set up in Africa, and a draft budget breakdown.

The handbook’s target audience includes WHO staff members, government officials from participating countries, academics, and implementing partners in countries involved in large-scale mHealth programmes.

Background

NCDs are the leading cause of death and disability globally, causing significant health and economic burdens for individuals, societies and health systems (1). Cancers, in particular, caused some 8.2 million deaths in 2012 (2). Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer in women (2). In 2012, there were an estimated 266,000 deaths from cervical cancer worldwide, more than 85% of which occurred in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) (2). Cervical cancer is caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV), the most common sexually transmitted infection of the female

Figure 1: The WHO comprehensive approach to cervical cancer prevention and control: Overview of programmatic interventions throughout the life course to prevent HPV infection and cervical cancer



<p>PRIMARY PREVENTION Girls 9-13 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HPV vaccination <p>Girls and boys, as appropriate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health information and warnings about tobacco use* • Sexuality education tailored to age & culture • Condom promotion/provision for those engaged in sexual activity • Male circumcision 	<p>SECONDARY PREVENTION Women >30 years of age Screening and treatment as needed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Screen and treat" with low cost technology VIA followed by cryotherapy • HPV testing for high risk HPV types (e.g. types 16, 18 and others) 	<p>TERTIARY PREVENTION All women as needed Treatment of invasive cancer at any age</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ablative surgery • Radiotherapy • Chemotherapy
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* Tobacco use is an additional risk factor for cervical cancer.

reproductive tract. Almost all sexually active individuals will be infected with HPV at some point in their lives and some may be repeatedly infected. The peak time for infection is shortly after becoming sexually active. Most cases of HPV infection resolve spontaneously and do not cause symptoms or disease. Persistent infection with specific types of HPV may, however, lead to precancerous lesions. Globally, HPV16 and HPV18 are the most common precancerous

While both cross-sectional and longitudinal studies are inconsistent in their findings about condom use as a means of protecting against HPV in women (6), much evidence shows that a comprehensive approach to cervical cancer prevention and control throughout the life course will reduce the burden of the disease. The goal of any comprehensive cervical cancer prevention and control programme is to reduce the burden of cervical cancer (6).

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