

Integrated community based HIV and cervical cancer screening project Kilosa District



bordering with Iringa Region. The district has 73 Health Facilities including 3 hospitals: Kilosa District Hospital, Berega Anglican Hospital and St. Kizito Hospital. Doctors with Africa CUAMM has supported St. Kizito Hospital, to ensure health care services at Hospital and lower level facility level, with a special focus on maternal and child health care. In July 2015, CUAMM started in Kilosa District the “Integrated community based HIV and cervical cancer screening project” with the aim to contribute to the reduction of the burden of cervical cancer through an integrated approach addressing also HIV among the population living in the catchment area of St. Kizito Hospital. Moreover the proposal focused on community involvement for awareness raising on cancer screening and treatment and HIV prevention within the existing mobilization activities, thanks to Community Health Workers (CHWs) and Village Leaders who have carried out Home Visiting. Direct beneficiaries were women in child bearing age living in the catchment area of the targeted Health Facilities, more specifically 56,333, 22% of the total Project Area Population (256,058).

BACKGROUND

Tanzania has one of highest cervical cancer burdens in the world and the highest in Eastern Africa with Age-standardized incidence rate (ASR) of 50.9 cases per 100,000 women. In Morogoro Region, according to a study¹ carried out at Morogoro regional referral hospital, of all VIA/VILI screened positive women, 58 (47.9%) were in the age group between 30 and 39 years and 42 (34.7%) women were in the age group between 40 and 49 years. The baseline study² conducted in Morogoro Region by Doctors with Africa CUAMM in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children shows positive attitudes towards breast and cervical cancer knowledge, screening, and treatment; however nearly all respondents (86%) have never ever been screened/ tested for cervical cancer. Moreover, Tanzania is among the countries most affected by HIV/AIDS. In 2016, 1.4 million people were living with HIV in the country; this equates to an estimated HIV prevalence of 4.7%³. Women are heavily burdened by HIV where 780,000 women aged 15 and over are living with HIV⁴. In addition, Women with cervical cancer are twice as likely to be HIV-positive than women who do not have cervical cancer; and HIV-positive women in Tanzania also develop cervical cancer 10 years earlier than HIV-negative women.

THE PROJECT AND THE AIM

The District of Kilosa is one of the 6 districts of Morogoro Region and it is located in the western part of the region,

Table 1. Main activities of the Project

	Community	Health Centers	District Hospital
TRAINING	CHWs orientation for comm. mobilisation on available services at HCs level	Training of HC staff on screening of CaCx (VIA) and treatment (Cryotherapy)	Training of Hospital staff CaCx (VIA) treatment (Cryotherapy) and LEEP technique
SUPERVISION	Quarterly supervision of CHWs in collaboration with District Authorities	Quarterly HCs supervision and mentoring in partnership with District Authorities	
PROCUREMENT	IEC material/tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment for VIA and Cryotherapy HIV tests Glucometers and diabetes test kits Consumables 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment for VIA Cryotherapy and LEEP technique HIV tests Glucometers and diabetes test kits

RESULTS

The intervention has involved all 3 health levels in the area of Kilosa District: 1 Hospital (Hospital St. Kizito), 6 Health Centers (Kidodi, Kimamba, Ulaya, Msange, Dumila and Magubike) and 31 Outreaches - Mobile Clinics, that were organized in some Dispensaries of the catchment area.

The intervention has been fulfilled thanks to Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation, that has contributed to the training of the health workers, the equipment supply and the support to the health activities performed in the static and mobile clinics and thanks to PRRR, that has allowed the extension of the intervention in other 2 Health Facilities in the Kilosa District.

Starting to July 2015 to December 2017, the programme for HIV and cervical cancer counselling, HIV test, cervical screening and treatment has been good. Between April 2016 and November 2017, on a population of 56,333 child-bearing women, 18,714 women have been screened for cervical cancer with VIA technique. 497 (2.6%) women have been found VIA positive; of these, 490 (98.6%) have been treated with Cryotherapy.

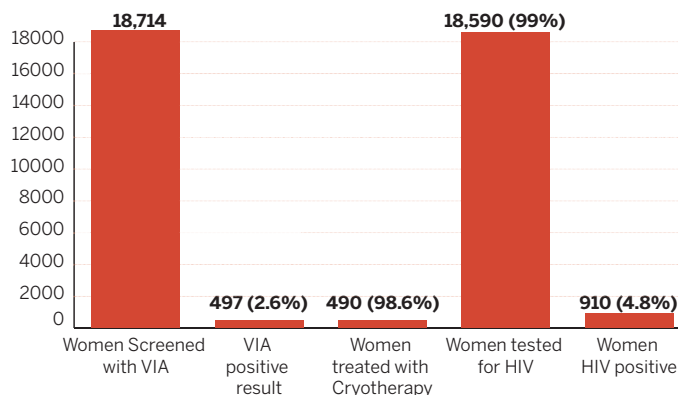
During counselling, 49 women were found suspicious for cancer have been referred to Mikumi St. Kizito Hospital; 31 of these have been treated with LEEP.

Of the 18,714 women who screened, 18,590 (99%) have been tested for HIV. Of these, 910 (4.8%) have been found HIV positive.



Women waiting for HIV and cervical cancer counselling

Graphic. Overall project Data (Static + Mobile Clinics)



1 Hospital + 6 Health Centers + 31 Outreaches (Apr. 16 - Nov. 17)

CONCLUSIONS

The response of the community to outreach activity continues to be excellent: the involvement of CHWs and Village Leaders has been very effective in terms of community mobilization and dissemination of information concerning cervical cancer prevention and treatment. In addition, women in the area of intervention have been well-received to participate in the cervical cancer knowledge, screening, and treatment.

REFERENCES

- 1 "Cervical Cancer and HIV Influence of HIV/AIDS on cervical precancerous lesions and invasive cervical cancer in Morogoro Region", Tanzania, Rhamadani Chambuso, Dissertation
- 2 Tanzania National Cervical Cancer Screening Expansion Programme. Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices Baseline Draft Report
- 3 UNAIDS "AIDSinfo" [Accessed 14/09/2017]
- 4 UNAIDS "Tanzania HIV and AIDS estimates (2015)" [Accessed 29/11/2016]