



**Grounds
for Health™**

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Who We Are

Grounds for Health is an international non-profit organization with a small administrative office in Vermont and a team of eight local staff who lead our programs in Ethiopia and Kenya. Over the past 25 years we have also implemented programs in Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, and Tanzania, and we have provided short-term technical assistance in Guatemala and Kiribati.

We partner with coffee cooperatives and companies as well as local and national health authorities to combat cervical cancer, an entirely preventable disease, through screening and treatment.

Our Vision

Our vision is to build the bridge to globally inclusive health care through the prevention of cervical cancer in underserved coffee communities. There is great inequity in access to health services between women in lower resource coffee lands and women in middle-high income countries. We reduce these inequities by building skills locally: training community health workers and healthcare providers in cervical cancer prevention while treating women with dignity and respect.

Why Cervical Cancer

Cervical cancer mortality is on the rise, yet it is entirely preventable. The human papilloma virus (HPV) is responsible for close to 100% of all cervical cancer. The high-risk strains can develop into cervical pre-cancer and then cancer. Timely screening and treatment at the pre-cancer stage will stop cancer from developing and save a woman's life.

In the next 15 years, six million women are expected to die from cervical cancer, and 85% of these deaths will occur in low and middle income countries.*

The WHO has called for global, coordinated action to eliminate cervical cancer. We are, as we have been for 25 years, committed to implementing this vision.

* Bray, F., & Ferlay, J. e. (2018). Global Cancer Statistics 2018: GLOBOCAN Estimates of Incidence and Mortality Worldwide for 36 cancers in 185 Countries. CA CANCER J CLIN, 68:394-424.

Since 1996, Grounds for Health has brought high quality cervical cancer prevention and treatment to women in remote Latin America and East Africa.



MILESTONES SURPASSED

129,000 Women Screened

10,500 Women Treated

575 Health Providers Trained



With 25 years of experience in lower-income countries, we look forward to the next great chapter in cervical cancer prevention, when no woman dies from this entirely preventable disease.

Ellen Starr, Executive Director
Grounds for Health

Quality Assurance Is Our Hallmark

Many years of experience has taught us that health care providers in rural communities do not have access to continuous support and learning opportunities.

However, digital imaging of the cervix has been a game-changer, allowing us to provide two levels of oversight. Grounds for Health field staff can review images and provide feedback to providers we have previously trained. Meanwhile, US-based clinical experts also examine the images. We correspond in real-time and host roundtables to review cases and give feedback on the diagnosis and management decisions made by our own staff members.

Innovation To Underserved Areas

Grounds for Health is tireless in our search for new methods and practices that will reach more women and more accurately predict and prevent cancer.

In addition to our current screening method of visual inspection with acetic acid (VIA), we are excited to introduce HPV testing. HPV testing is a standard screening tool in higher income countries and will provide more accurate results while improving patient reach and acceptability.

Self-administered by women in their own homes, this test can identify individuals with high-risk HPV who will then receive treatment. Because this method will increase both efficiency and patient satisfaction, it will allow us to see more and more women in rural coffee communities.

We are also on the vanguard of innovative treatment methods. We champion thermal ablation, which takes less time and the devices are more durable and portable than the traditional cryotherapy treatment. These improvements make it more appealing to patients and more cost-effective in low-resource settings.



We envision a future free of cervical cancer.