

A faint, light purple world map is centered in the background of the slide, showing the outlines of continents.

# Impact of COVID on Cervical Cancer Screening in El Salvador

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# Conflict of Interest

I have no commercial relationship with any corporate entity that produces or sells products related to HPV testing

# Basic Health International (BHI)

Non-profit organization

- Research of new technologies for screening and treatment for cervical cancer
- Implementation of these new technologies in LMICs

**Mission: To eliminate cervical cancer globally**

# Background

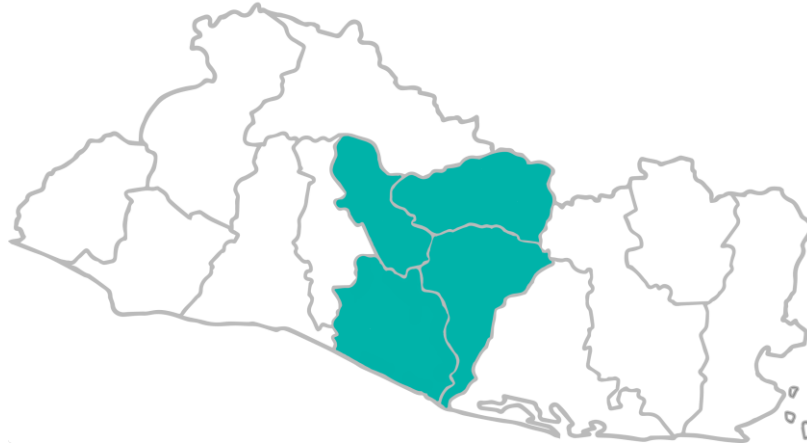
# El Salvador

- Working with MOH since 2008
- Introduce HPV testing into the national cervical cancer screening program.
- BHI has an agreement with the Ministry of Health of El Salvador to monitor the HPV-based cervical cancer screening implementation program



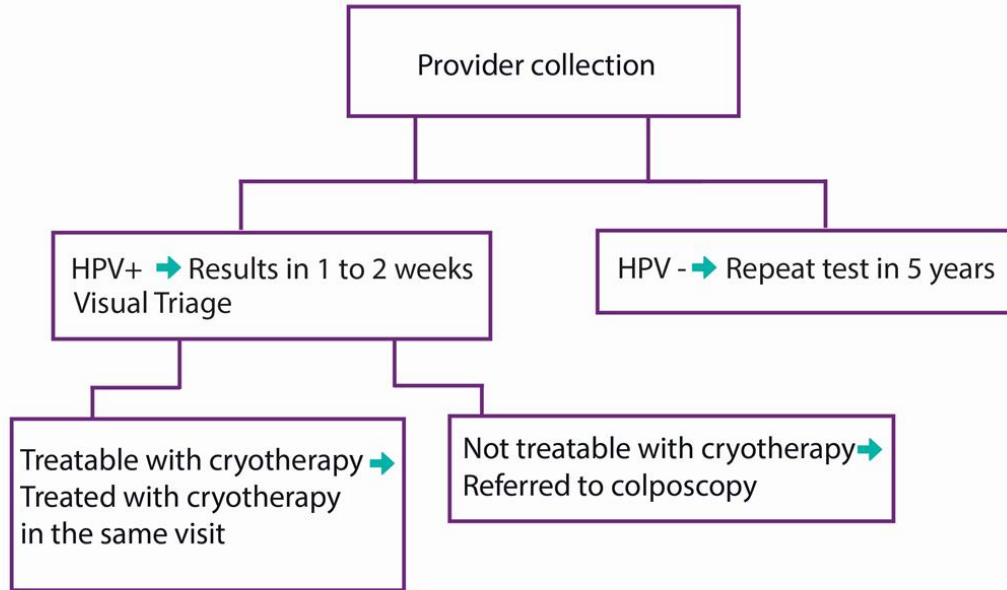
# Pilot Project

2012-2017



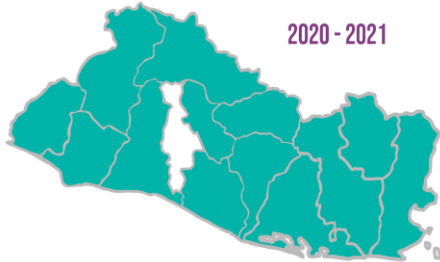
Total of women screened 28,000  
with 14% positivity rate

# Visual Assessment Triage (VAT)



88% of follow up

# Implementation of HPV test at a National Scale

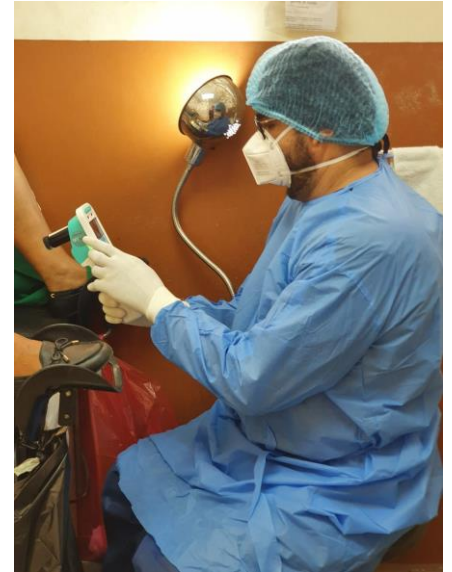


Total of women screened 145,000  
with 14% positivity rate (20,300)

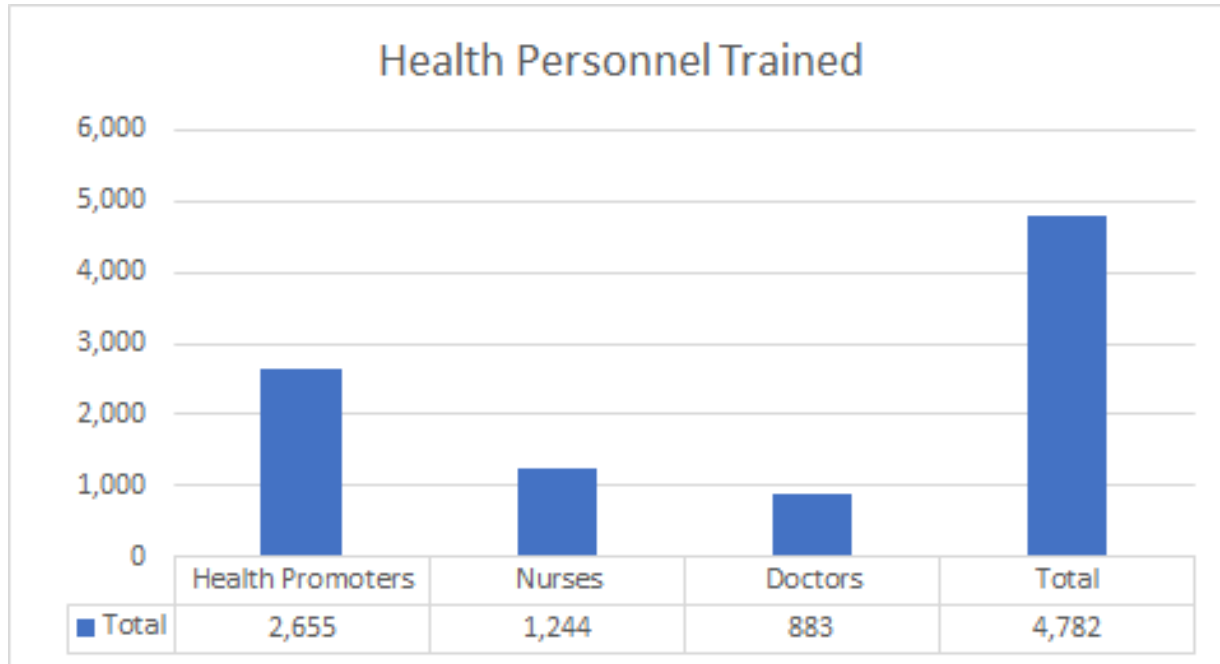


# Logistics for screening and treatment

- Screening in 614 health units in 4 regions of the country
- Treatment in 60 triage centers distributed strategically in order to approach services to women



# Training in Cervical Cancer



## Proposed Elimination Threshold and Targets

**Threshold for Elimination as a Public Health Problem:  
Age-adjusted incidence rate < 4 / 100,000 women**

### 2030 Targets

**90%**

of girls fully vaccinated  
with HPV vaccine by 15  
years of age

**70%**

of women are screened  
with a high-performance  
test by 35 and 45 years of  
age

**90%**

of women identified with  
cervical disease  
(precancer or cancer)  
receive treatment and  
care

**SDG 2030 Target 3.4:**

**30% reduction in mortality from NCDs**

# Impact of COVID-19 in Cervical Cancer Program

- Health services are focused on the pandemic
- Screening was suspended and delayed/ Expired test kits



# Impact of COVID-19 in Cervical Cancer Program

- Backlog of women pending follow-up or treatment
- HPV Vaccination was delayed
- New providers cannot be trained in traditional group settings



# Strategies to Reduce the Impact of COVID

- FPT Project
  - 5,000 women HPV positive pending for treatment
  - Since April 2021 we were able to locate 3,086 women
  - Performed colposcopy + images with mobile device on 2,078
    - 2,028 results
      - 452 CIN2+ (22%)
      - 25 cancer diagnose (1.2%)



# Sustainability

- Inclusion in the general budget of the nation
- Funds allocated \$1.5 million
  - 100,000 careHPV test/year



# Thank you