

Conclusions

- It is feasible to establish VIA-based screen-and-treat services in primary health-care facilities in sub-Saharan Africa and other limited-resource settings.
- Appropriate leadership from the MoH and support from all relevant stakeholders are necessary to implement such services within an appropriate budget.
- Most LMICs will have to depend on opportunistic screening until a robust health information system is developed to support systematic invitation of the target population.
- Opportunistic screening has several limitations. Women at higher risk of cervical cancer may never be screened because they seldom visit the primary health-care facilities. A comprehensive community mobilization strategy should be adopted to improve participation in screening.
- Capacity improvement is needed in the form of training for various categories of service providers and ensuring the availability of the necessary equipment and consumables.
- Having a critical number of master trainers in the country and establishing collaborations among LMICs in the region will have a cascading impact on the development of a large workforce in the long term.
- Treatment of eligible VIA-positive women with thermal ablation by nurses or general practitioners in primary care settings is safe, acceptable, and highly efficient in enabling the completion of screening and treatment in a single visit.
- It is essential to set up facilities for LLETZ, because a substantial proportion of VIA-positive women (about 40% in this project) are not eligible for ablative treatment.
- The programme leadership and the facility in charge should ensure a mechanism for a steady supply of the appropriate consumables and the maintenance of equipment, for seamless continuity of service.
- It is feasible to measure the performance of the programme on a continuous basis using a simple electronic database and record-keeping systems. The KPIs should be monitored, and appropriate corrective measures should be implemented when necessary. Such quality assurance exercises should involve service providers at all levels.