

Strengthening health care for women in rural Malawi through screening for cervical cancer

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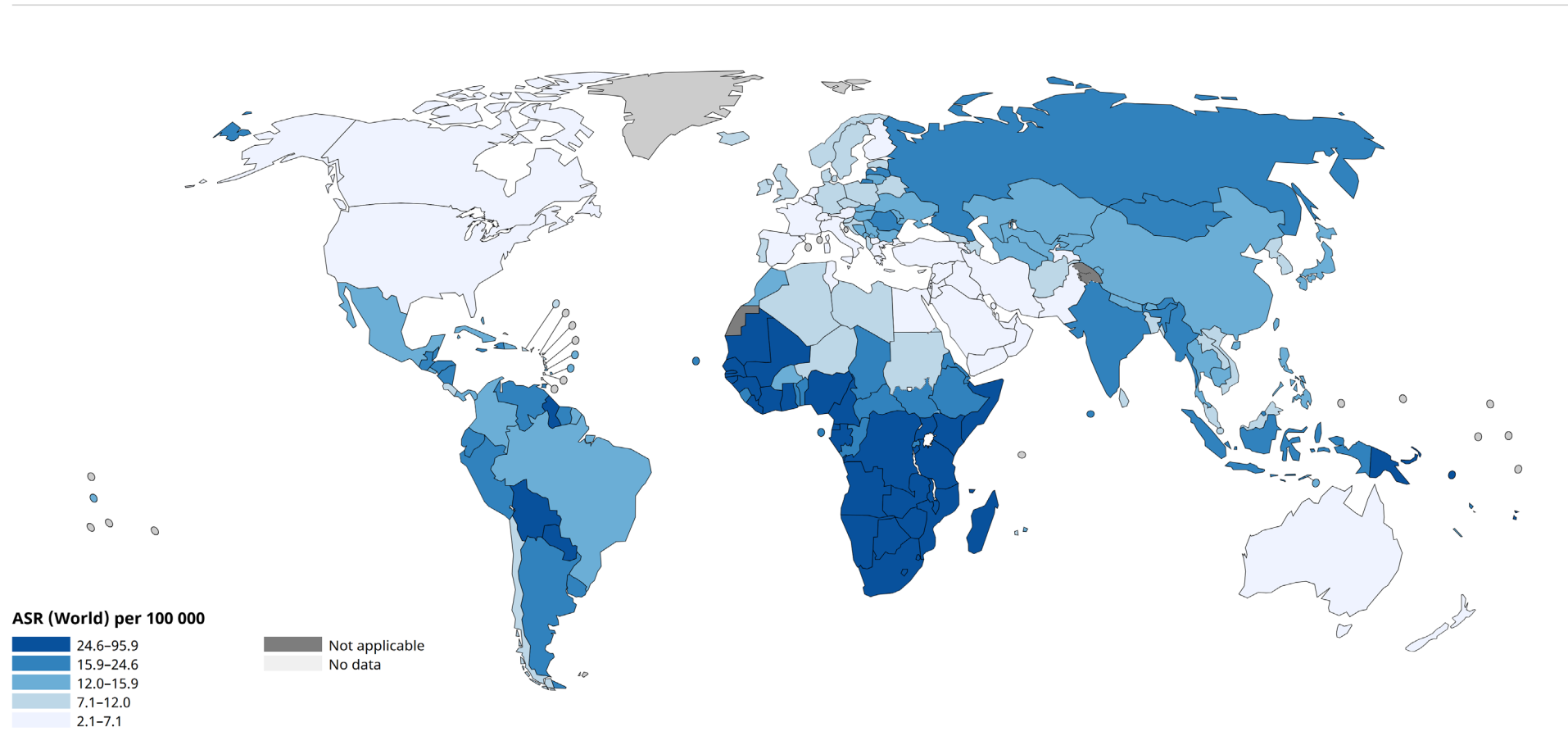


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Burden of cervical cancer in Low and Middle Income Countries

Age-Standardized Rate (World) per 100 000, Incidence, Females, in 2022
Cervix uteri

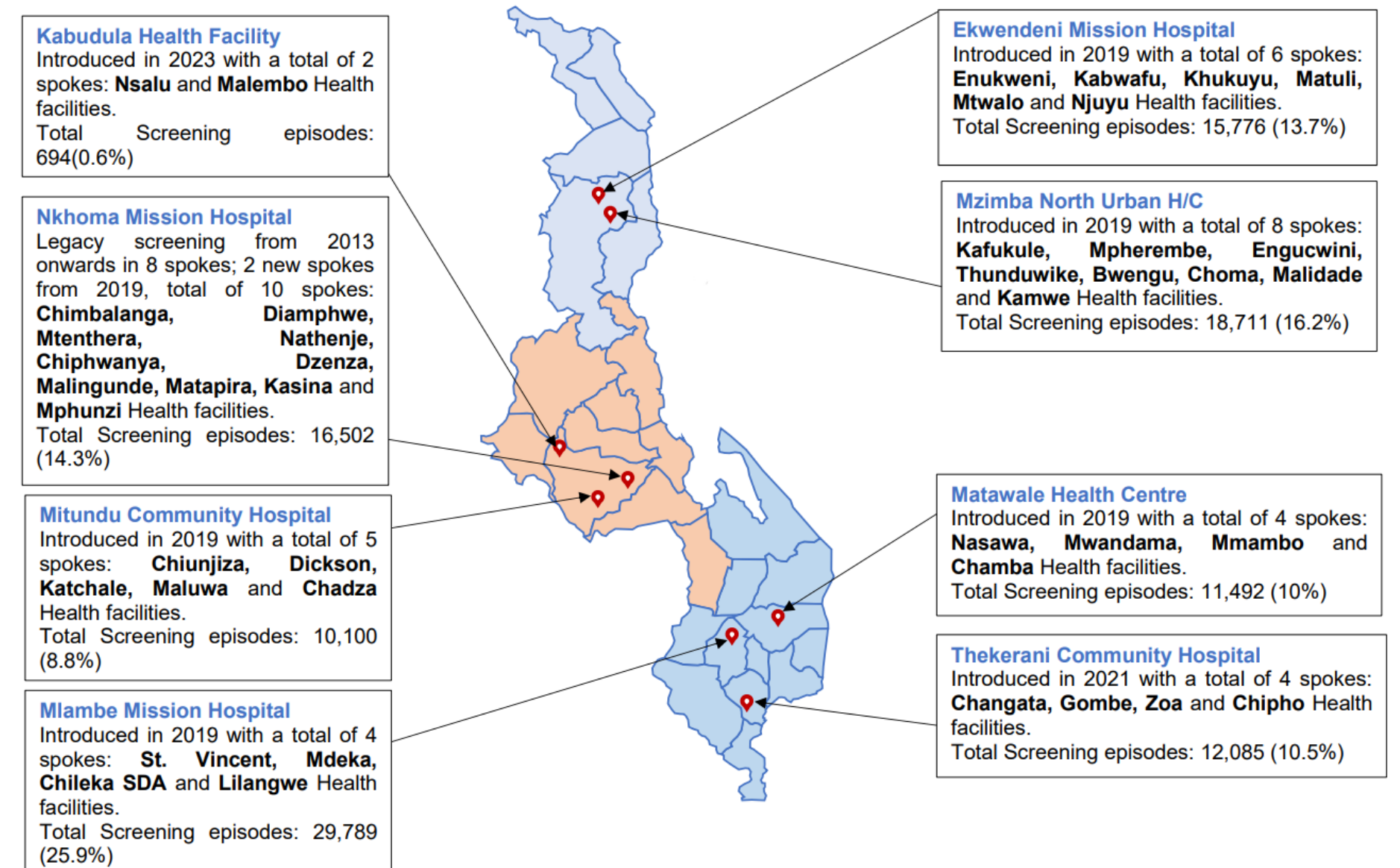


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Cancer TODAY | IARC
https://gco.iarc.who.int/today
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International Agency
for Research on Cancer
World Health Organization

Screening provision in under-served rural areas, reaching over 100,000 women

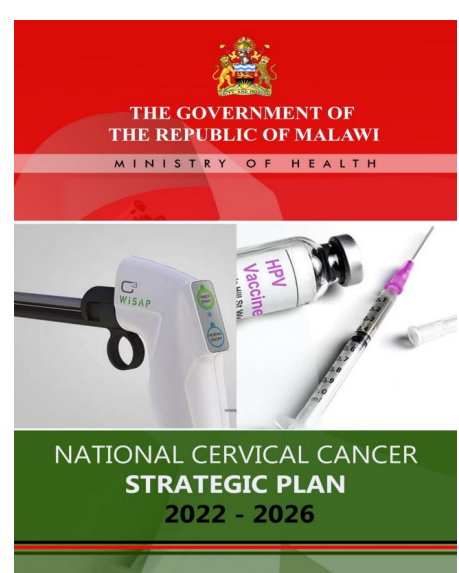


WHO elimination strategy

- a vision of a world where cervical cancer is eliminated as a public health problem;
- a threshold of 4 per 100 000 women-years for elimination as a public health problem;
- the following 90-70-90 targets that must be met by 2030 for countries to be on the path towards cervical cancer elimination:



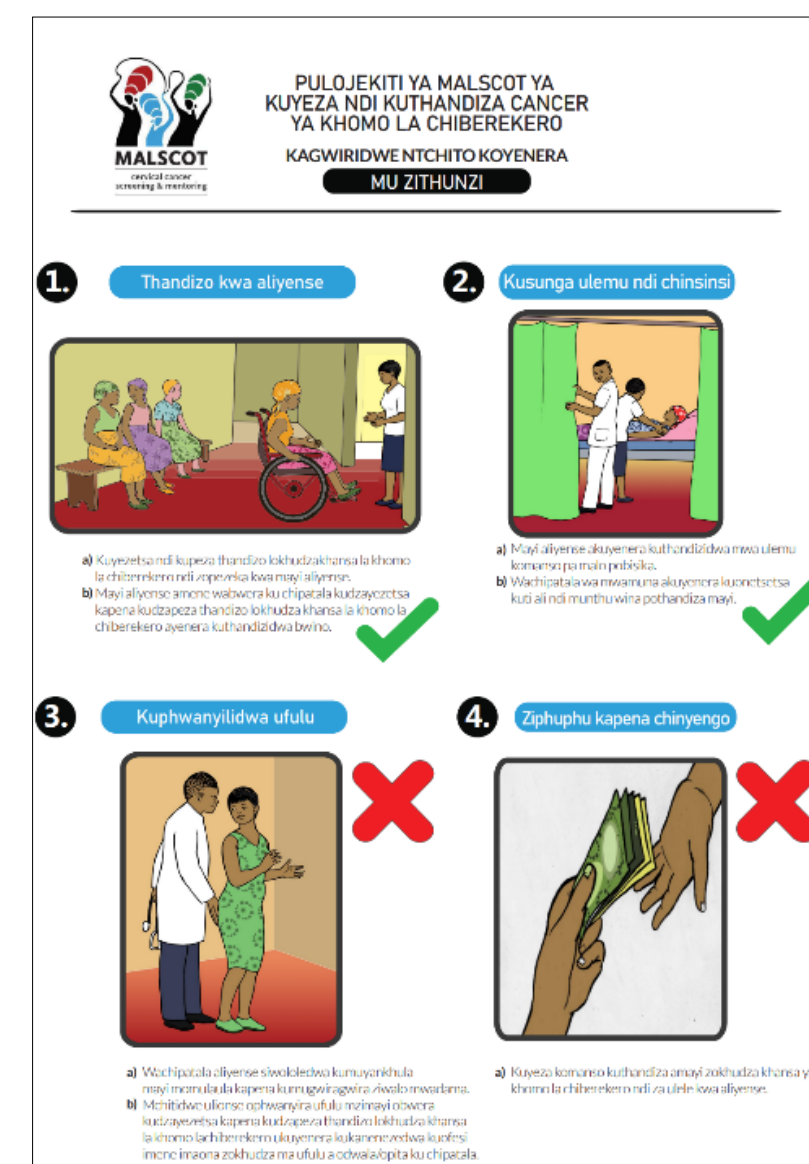
- Malawi** has the second highest global incidence and highest global death rate of cervical cancer
- Many of these deaths could be prevented by effective screening and treatment



MALSCOT screening & mentoring approach

- Funded by the Scottish Government International Development Fund; collaboration Malawi Ministry of Health, October 2018 to March 2024
- 'Screen and treat' approach using visual inspection with acetic acid (VIA) and treatment with thermal ablation
- Community sensitisation, awareness raising, traditional leaders
- Experiential training of staff; Continuous Professional Development
- Mentoring Toolkit and Mentoring programme; 25 mentors
- 116 nurse providers trained and mentored; independent Ministry of Health accreditation
- Refurbishment and equipping of 42 health centre clinics

Safeguarding policy 'Kudziteteza'



- Meaningful, in-country policy c.f. culturally different or inappropriate concepts
- Developed with input from civil society organisations
- Safeguarding Policy and summary guidance; Infographics in Chichewa, Tumbuka; Reporting forms; adopted nationally

Inclusion health perspective

Ensuring vulnerable and excluded women have the opportunity to access the service

Over 3000 received tailored screening

- women living with albinism
- women with physical or intellectual disabilities
- women from blind and deaf communities
- transactional sex workers
- women with psychiatric needs



PHOTO USED WITH CONSENT

Sustainability going forward

- District Health Offices to provide basic supplies
- Integration with HIV, family planning & Under-5s
- Continuing clear community engagement messages
- Challenges include stigma, pathways of care

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