

BASIC Health International

"I would not have been able to pay for treatment [without Basic Health International]. Being poor, one cannot afford to pay all of that. Considering everything that you have been able to pay, which has been no small amount, with an illness like this, when you're poor and don't have enough, it's better to die."

– Lydia, age 52, El Salvador

Who We Are

Basic Health International (BHI) was established in 2005 with a mission to eradicate cervical cancer in Latin America and the Caribbean. We utilize our expertise in women's health to provide clinical training, research and public policy guidance in the field of cervical cancer screening and treatment, particularly for women in low-resource settings. Our offices are located in New York City and San Salvador, El Salvador.

Why cervical cancer? Although it is **PREVENTABLE**, cervical cancer still places a heavy burden on those who have the fewest resources to treat it: women living in low-income countries.

- Worldwide, a woman dies of cervical cancer every two minutes
- Cervical cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death of women in developing countries
- Cervical cancer claims over 275,000 women's lives each year, and nearly 90% of these deaths occur in developing countries

What we do: BHI works on multiple levels to eradicate cervical cancer.

Medical Training: BHI trains health professionals in low-tech, low-cost screening and treatment methods appropriate for use in low-resource settings. To date, BHI has trained more than 90 clinicians who use these skills throughout El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic.

Patient Care: Basic Health offers free cervical cancer screening and treatment for cases of precancer and provides arrangements for treatment, transportation, food and housing for all women we identify with cervical cancer. To date, we have screened over 9,000 women and identified and provided treatment for 15 cancer cases.

Policy Guidance: BHI contributes to national and international cervical cancer screening guidelines by collaborating with Ministries of Health in Latin America and the World Health Organization to update policies.

Research: BHI conducts research to improve screening and prevention practices and share what we learn with the public health community, which has led to 15 published papers since 2005.

There is no reason for a woman to die of cervical cancer. It is the goal of Basic Health International to create a sustainable model for cervical cancer screening and treatment in developing countries by training local health professionals, treating patients, publishing best practice research, and contributing to policy reform that supports screening efforts.

"Instituting cervical cancer screening is perhaps the cheapest and easiest way of saving the lives of women in developing countries"

– Dr. Miriam Cremer, BHI Founder and President, Assistant Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

