

# ACCELERATING HPV-RELATED CANCER ELIMINATION

Bhutan's Cervical cancer Elimination Flagship  
Program

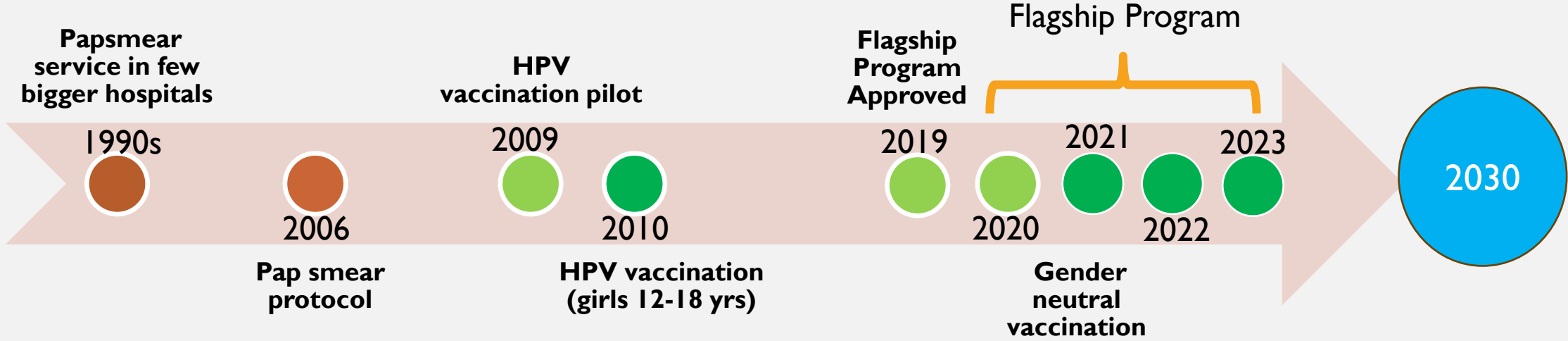
(Pempa, Ministry of Health, Bhutan)

# BHUTAN IN BRIEF

- ❖ Kingdom of Bhutan
- ❖ Constitutional Democratic Monarchy
- ❖ Total Population: 770,276
- ❖ Income classification: LMIC
- ❖ GDP/capita: USD \$ 3,833
  
- ❖ Health Indicators
  - ❖ Life expectancy at Birth: 72 Years
  - ❖ All basic vaccination coverage: ~100%
  - ❖ Maternal Mortality: 53/100,000 live births
  - ❖ U5 mortality: 19.5/1000 live births
  - ❖ Patient satisfaction: 91%
  
- ❖ Tax financed health system (Free healthcare)
  - Total health expenditure per capita: \$156.92
  - Govt. health expenditure of CHE: ~80%
  - Private health expenditure of CHE: <2%
  - Out-of-pocket expenditure of CHE: ~15%
  
- ❖ Top 5 cancers in females: Cervix uteri, stomach, breast, thyroid, and ovary.

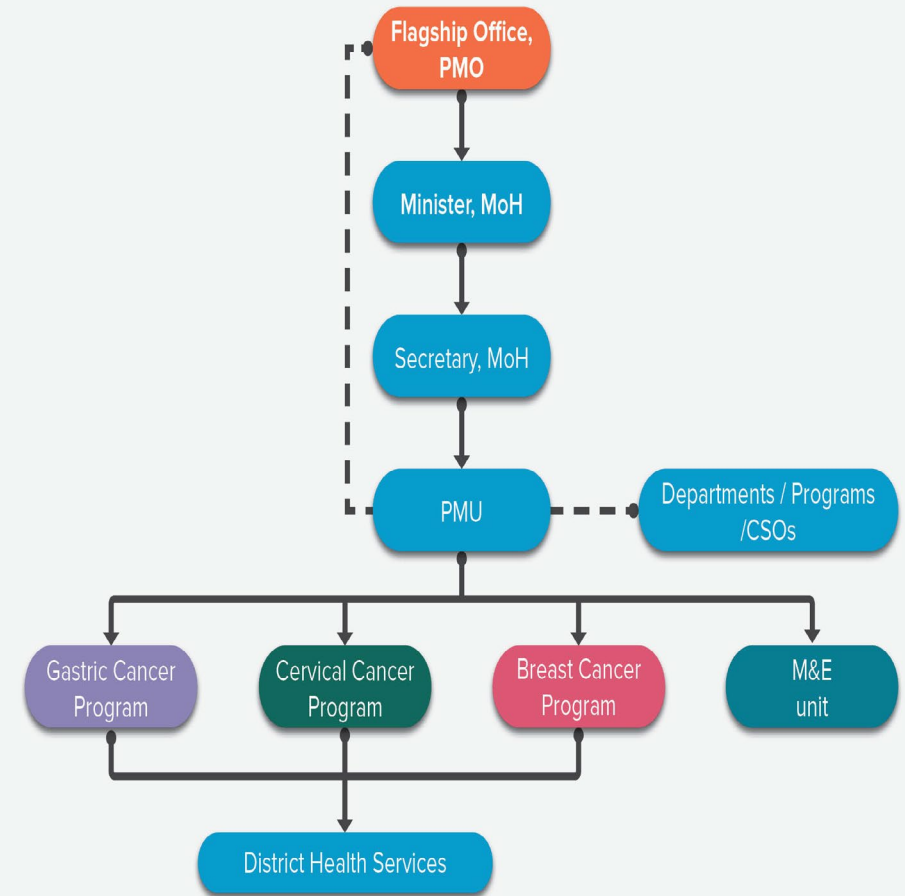


# KEY MILESTONES IN BHUTAN'S JOURNEY TO ELIMINATE CERVICAL CANCER



# HEALTH FLAGSHIP PROGRAM

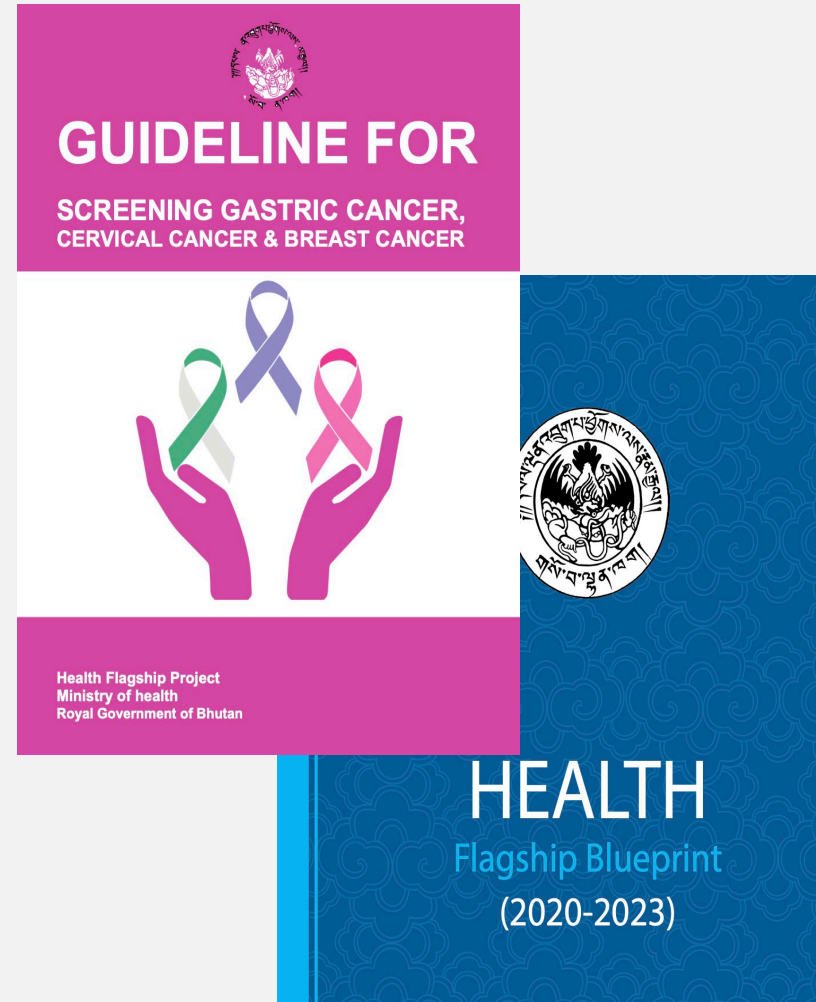
- ❖ Health Flagship Programme- 1 of 9 flagship programmes of the Royal Government of Bhutan for the 12th Five Year Plan (2018–2023)
- ❖ The flagship program was designed to address national priorities , which otherwise not covered by the FYP
- ❖ Approved budget outlay: USD\$13.095 million
- ❖ Program Timeline: 2020-2023
- ❖ Program Area: Cervical Cancer, Gastric Cancer and Breast Cancer
- ❖ The Project Management Unit reported periodically to the Prime Minister's Office
- ❖ The primary implementation units were the district health sectors that conducted facility-based and community-outreach screening camps.



# CERVICAL CANCER FLAGSHIP PROGRAM

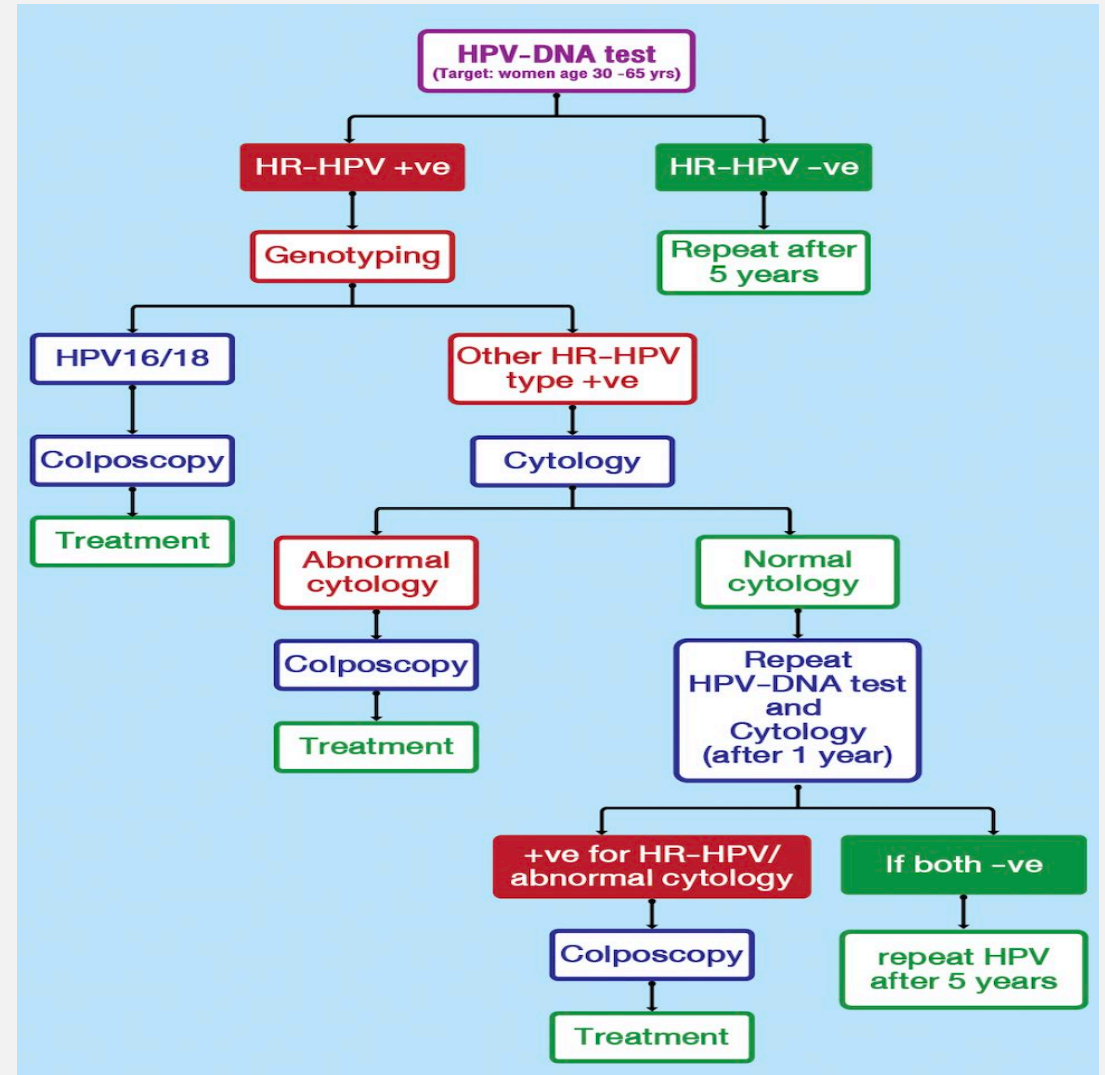
- ❖ Implementation: Based on Blueprint & Guideline
- ❖ The objective for cervical cancer screening programme was to reduce cervical cancer incidence and mortality through early screening and prevention
- ❖ Key Strategic Actions:
  - 1) Early screening and treatment of cervical pre-cancers/ cancers
    - **HPV testing** and **reflex cytology** (Liquid Based Cytology): women aged 30-65 years
    - women aged 25-29 years (Just LBC)
    - See & Treat
  - 2) Enhanced advocacy and awareness program.
    - Training programs of health workers on prevention, early detection and treatment
    - Public awareness

Blueprint & Guideline



# SCREENING AND TREATMENT

- ❖ Target Population: women aged 30-65 years
- ❖ Target Size: ~150,000 women
- ❖ HPV-DNA testing, Partial genotyping & LBC as triage
- ❖ See & Treat Approach
- ❖ Outreached camps & facility-based screening program
- ❖ Use of horses & choppers (Lunana)
- ❖ Screening Coverage: ~91% (NHS2023-87.8%)
- ❖ HPV Positivity Rate: ~9.5%
- ❖ HPV positive cases followed up for colposcopy and necessary treatment: ~92%

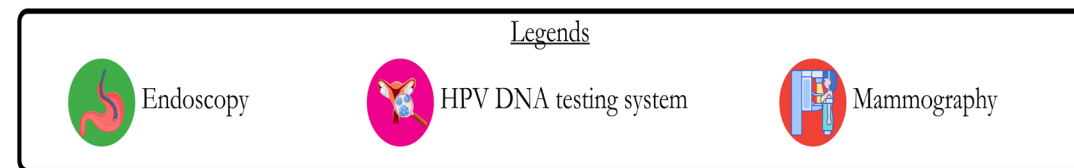
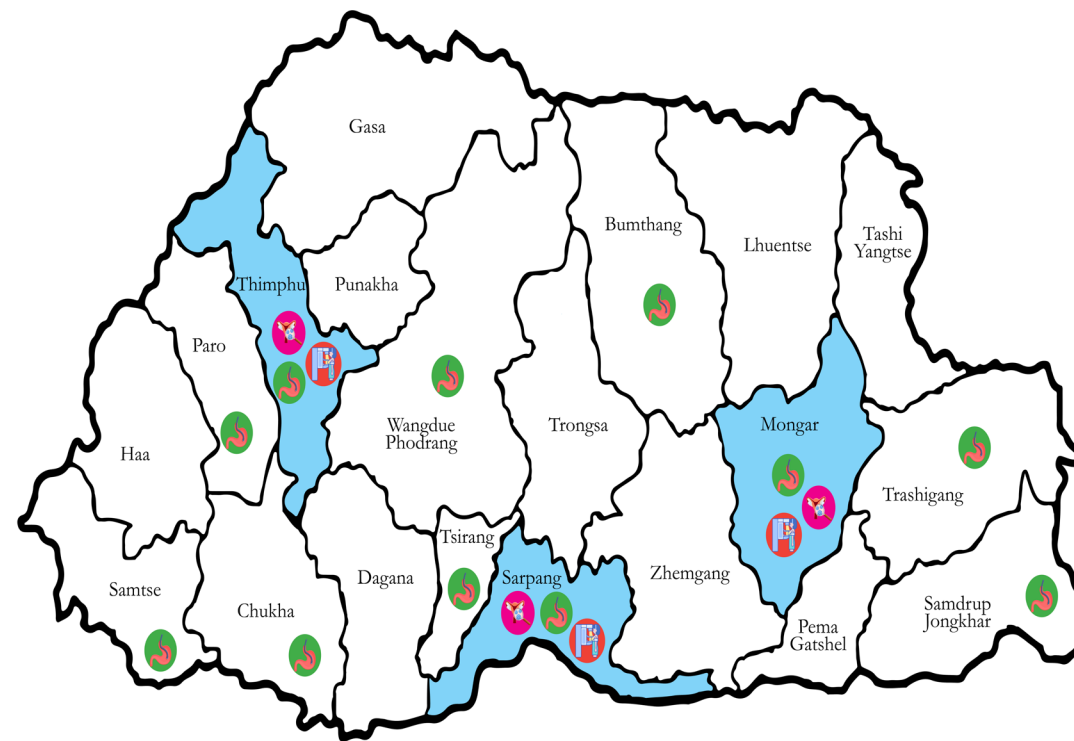


# ADVOCACY & AWARENESS

Objective	Target	Method
<input type="checkbox"/> Capacity building on prevention, early detection and treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Health Workers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Training Programs</li> <li>❖ Attachment Program</li> <li>❖ Workshops</li> <li>❖ Sensitization Program</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> Garner support in implementation of the program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Management and Local Government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Sensitization Program</li> <li>❖ Executive Orders</li> <li>❖ Notifications</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Awareness & Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ General population</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Videos/Narrative/Infographic/Pamphlets/Posters</li> <li>❖ Panel discussions/Talk shows</li> <li>❖ Announcements</li> <li>➤ Mainstream media (national/Local TV, News papers)</li> <li>➤ Social media/Official websites</li> <li>➤ Information sharing channels of the Local Government</li> <li>➤ Schools</li> </ul>

# ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE FLAGSHIP PROGRAM

Area	Before	After
HPV Vaccination	Girls (12-18 years)	Girls & Boys (~97% coverage)
HPV-DNA testing centre	0	3
Cytology	Conventional	LBC
Screening Coverage	60% (Papsmear)	91% (HPV test)
Colposcopy/Treatment Centre	4	10
Reporting System	Poor	Online system
Community Engagement & Education	Poor	Strong
Institutionalization of Program	Poor	National Cancer Program)



This map is not authoritative on its international boundary.



## FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

- ❖ Strengthen National Cancer Program at MoH
- ❖ Improve in cancer treatment services while sustaining the prevention and screening Programs
- ❖ Optimisation of current HPV vaccination Program and Screening Program
  1. Study Effectiveness of the currently used HPV vaccines (Quadruple vaccine)
  2. Explore switching to single dose HPV vaccine
  3. Optimise the screening strategies
- ❖ Generate more evidence for continuous improvement as well as guide other countries
- ❖ Strengthen Collaboration with International Organizations/Agencies/Institutions

THANK YOU