

## **International Cancer Prevention: HPV vaccination grants programme 2025 – Request for Expressions of Interest**

### **Overview of Cancer Research UK**

As the world's largest independent funder of cancer research, Cancer Research UK (CRUK) is committed to reducing the burden of cancer in countries all over the world. CRUK's Global Policy team leads the organisation's global policy engagement, which includes the International Cancer Prevention (ICP) programme, an initiative committed to reducing cancer burden in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

The aim of the ICP programme is to drive progress in cancer prevention in LMICs through cost-effective and affordable public health interventions targeting tobacco use and cervical cancer prevention, through advocacy and the development and communication of policy-relevant evidence.

Through the ICP programme, CRUK has been working to support the implementation of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (the FCTC) in LMICs since 2016, with a focus on the economics of tobacco control. In 2020, the ICP expanded its focus to include cervical cancer prevention, focusing on supporting the introduction and uptake of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine in LMICs to align with the WHO global strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem. These WHO global strategies provide the framework and momentum for the ICP Programme over the course of its 2021–2026 strategy and beyond. Both HPV vaccination and tobacco control through taxation are recognised by the WHO as "[best buys](#)" for improving public health.

CRUK's ICP programme objectives are:

- At the national level in LMICs, encouraging the generation and implementation of policy-relevant research which supports preventative policies and programmes for tobacco control and cervical cancer prevention.
- At the global level, advocating for the implementation of WHO frameworks, strategies and treaties to prevent and address the growing burden of cancer in LMICs.

### **Our HPV vaccination focus**

In 2020, the World Health Organization launched a [global strategy](#) committed to 'accelerating the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem'. This included a target for every country in the world by 2030 to ensure 90% of girls are fully vaccinated against HPV, which causes most cervical cancers, by the time they reach 15 years of age. We know that HPV vaccination is a cost-effective intervention to reduce the incidence of cervical cancer. The UK's national HPV vaccination programme

has reduced predicted cases of cervical cancer in the UK by nearly 90% since its introduction in 2008. Many LMIC governments have established HPV vaccination strategies, but achieving sufficient uptake remains a challenge. In 2023, only 20% of girls globally received an HPV vaccine by the age of 15.

CRUK's ICP programme has a specific focus on improving coverage of HPV vaccination as a means of preventing cervical cancer around the world. CRUK aims to support efforts to address global disparities in HPV vaccination coverage by supporting policy-relevant research and advocacy, generating evidence that can fill knowledge gaps and can be used by policymakers and advocates to improve acceptance of, and access to, HPV vaccines in LMICs.

## **HPV vaccination 2025 grants programme**

CRUK is inviting applications for funding to support 2 to 3 projects with the aim of **increasing HPV vaccination coverage among adolescent girls in low- and middle-income countries as a means of preventing cervical cancer.**

Organisations can apply for a funding amount of between **GBP 100,000 – 200,000** and **for a duration of between 18–30 months.**

### **Projects will need to support one or more of the following objectives:**

1. To **support the introduction** of a government-supported HPV vaccination programme at the national, state or provincial level.
2. To help **sustain or scale up** existing HPV vaccination programmes, including routinisation and multi-age catch-ups, possibly using school-based programmes
3. To **advance integration** of HPV vaccination programmes with other public health interventions e.g. programmes focused on cancer, SHRH, nutrition, menstrual hygiene, routine immunisation, adolescent health, or HIV.
4. To support HPV vaccination programmes to reach girls who do not have **equitable access** to public health interventions, such as out of school or immunosuppressed adolescent girls.

This funding may be used to support the expansion or continuation of existing projects or the development of new initiatives.

### **As part of this programme, we will fund HPV vaccination activities related to:**

- **Research on Policy, Implementation or Advocacy:** Generate evidence to support the development, implementation and enhancement of HPV vaccination policies and programmes.

- **Implementation of HPV vaccination interventions:** Implement evidence-based interventions to improve HPV vaccination coverage. For example, advocacy programmes and campaigns, community and youth engagement programmes, and the integration of HPV vaccination into adolescent health services.
- **Capacity building:** Strengthen the capacity of governments, organisations, and coalitions to deliver and sustain HPV vaccination efforts. For example, training healthcare workers, providing technical assistance and improving systems for vaccine delivery.
- **Peer learning and collaboration:** Facilitate collaboration and knowledge exchange across countries, regions and sectors to share best practices for improving HPV vaccination outcomes. For example, through digital knowledge-sharing, regional and global networks and establishing communities of practice.

### Criteria for Expression of Interest

Organisations may include:

- Cancer organisations
- Youth groups
- Medical societies/professional organisations
- Women's groups
- Research institutions (including universities)
- Civil society organisations
- Advocacy/campaigning groups
- Coalitions of the above

We encourage Expressions of Interest from organisations without prior experience in HPV vaccination.

- Organisations must be located in a LMIC in Africa, Asia, the Middle East or the Caribbean.
- Eligible countries must have an existing government-supported HPV vaccination programme (national or sub-national) or demonstrate clear government commitment to introduce an HPV vaccination programme by the end of 2026.
- If applying as a coalition, we encourage the inclusion of at least one cancer organisation in the coalition.
- A maximum of 10% of the budget can be used for an organisation or coalition's indirect costs.

CRUK's existing International Cancer Prevention (ICP) grant portfolio will be considered during the evaluation of Expressions of Interest. Preference may be given to applications that address gaps or opportunities within the portfolio.

## Exclusion criteria

As part of this grant, CRUK **will not** fund:

- HPV vaccine procurement and distribution
- Medical research projects related to HPV vaccination
- Projects based in or for a high-income country
- Projects based in countries without an existing HPV vaccination programme and no demonstrable government commitment or plans to implement one by the end of 2026.
- Projects focused on secondary prevention for cervical cancer.
- Projects focused on cervical cancer treatment.

Unfortunately, CRUK is not able to support projects in countries that are subject to financial sanctions imposed by the UK Government or countries that are deemed high risk by CRUK. These countries include, but are not limited to:

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| • Afghanistan                           | • Lebanon     |
| • Central African Republic              | • Mali        |
| • Democratic People's Republic of Korea | • Myanmar     |
| • Democratic Republic of the Congo      | • Palestine   |
| • Republic of Guinea Bissau             | • Somalia     |
| • Haiti                                 | • South Sudan |
| • Iran                                  | • Sudan       |
| • Iraq                                  | • Syria       |
| • Libya                                 | • Yemen       |

## Application process

Expressions of Interest must be completed in English.

**Please apply using this [online form](#) and enter your responses directly into the text boxes provided. Please adhere to the word limit provided for each section.**

The submission deadline for an Expression of interest is **9.00 AM BST on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025**.

**Important: this form does not autosave. We strongly recommend drafting and saving your responses in a separate document before starting the form. Your answers will only be saved once the form is submitted.**

1. How does the project support the WHO Global strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem, and at least one of the four target objectives outlined above (see [Page 2](#)). (300 words)

2. Aims and Objectives (250 words)
3. Description of Project (including activities and expected results) (500 words)
4. Organisations Involved (200 words)
5. Project Lead (individual, or lead organisation in the case of a coalition). Please include a summary outlining the Project Lead's professional background and relevant experience, particularly leading and managing grant funded projects (300 words)
6. Amount of funding requested. Please include if the project will be co-funded, is building on funding already received or will be complementary to an existing project (100 words)
7. Duration of project (100 words)
8. High-Level budget, including subtotals for a) staff/personnel, b) events/workshops/research costs c) materials, d) fees and running expenses, and e) indirect costs (300 words)
9. Experience of managing a grant worth over GBP 75, 000, including funder details and grant period (lead organisation in the case of a coalition) (300 words)

**Expressions of Interests will be reviewed using the following criteria:**

- **Organisation:** the organisation and project lead demonstrate relevant experience, expertise and capacity to successfully deliver this project.
- **Need:** the project addresses an unmet need related to HPV vaccination in an eligible country or state and demonstrates the potential to improve equitable access to or uptake of the HPV vaccine, particularly among underserved or high-risk populations.
- **Feasibility:** the project is realistic and achievable within the defined timeframe and budget.
- **Quality:** the project rationale, aims and objectives are clearly defined and supported by appropriate activities.
- **Relevance:** the project aim(s) align with Pillar One – HPV vaccination – of the 'WHO Global strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem' and at least one of CRUK's stated target objectives (see [Page 2](#)).
- **Impact:** the anticipated outputs and outcomes are well-defined, measurable and likely to contribute to sustained improvements in HPV vaccination coverage in the target setting.
- **Value for money:** the project budget is clear, realistic and well-justified and demonstrates good value for money.

Two 60-minute webinars will be hosted on **13<sup>th</sup> August** at **9.30am and 4pm BST** for a Question and Answer session. Please follow the below links to register for one of the sessions and receive a Microsoft Teams invite.

**13th August 9.30am BST:** <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/8583a928-2fb1-41e1-ae99-c7d71bceb9dd@4473892f-71e0-46fc-8dec-273902b51349>

**13th August 4.00pm BST:** <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/3928378a-c585-4c02-bf22-80c5884a41f4@4473892f-71e0-46fc-8dec-273902b51349>

## Timeline

<b>24<sup>th</sup> July 2025</b>	Expression of Interest applications open
<b>13<sup>th</sup> August</b>	Q&A webinars
<b>8<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Expression of Interest applications close
<b>25<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Shortlisted applicants* invited to submit proposal
<b>27<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Proposal submission deadline
<b>December</b>	Applicants informed of funding recommendations
<b>March 2026</b>	Agreements signed
<b>From April – May</b>	Funding released

*\*A proposal template will be provided to shortlisted applicants upon shortlisting. Shortlisted organisations who are invited to produce a full proposal will need to provide their organisation policies/documents on:*

1. *anti corruption and bribery*
2. *conflicts of interest*
3. *risk management*
4. *grievance/complaints/whistleblowing*
5. *safeguarding*
6. *health and safety*
7. *ethics*
8. *modern slavery*
9. *procurement*
10. *legal document agreeing to the formation of the organisation and the written rules about running the organisation, agreed by the representatives of the organisation (e.g. Memorandum or Articles of Association).*
11. *governance structure*
12. *finance procedures including detecting and reporting of fraud*

*If your organisation would not be able to produce these please contact CRUK's Global Policy team at [global@cancer.org.uk](mailto:global@cancer.org.uk).*

*If we receive separately submitted Expressions of Interest which could complement each other, we will connect applicants.*

**If you have any queries, please email CRUK's Global Policy team at [global@cancer.org.uk](mailto:global@cancer.org.uk).**