

## Background

Cervical cancer is the most common cancer among women of reproductive age in Rwanda. Most of the women are diagnosed too late and are unable to benefit from the available treatment and care.

Rwanda was the first country in Africa to develop and implement a national cervical cancer prevention, care and control strategic plan. Telehealth solutions could feed into that program, improving current services and strengthening early detection, which improves treatability.

## Key findings

Positive attitude towards using telehealth in cervical cancer screening to:

- Reduce cancer mortalities and morbidities with early detection
- Facilitate remote care to overcome shortage of specialists
- Facilitate research and generate evidence on detection and treatment of cervical cancer



## Concerns

- Effectiveness of unknown ICT solutions
- Patient acceptability of telehealth solutions
- Patient or health worker access to telehealth solutions
- Acceptability of changes in workflows and responsibilities
- Privacy and confidentiality of patient information



## System readiness

- Government policies encourage ICT use
- Major hospitals and other health facilities are connected and digitalised
- Ongoing research and training in telehealth related areas



## Recommendations

- Update policies regarding data protection and privacy
- Make guidelines for the operationalisation of telehealth in cervical cancer screening and care
- Involve local researchers with gender expertise to capture the needs of Rwandan women
- Ensure ownership and sustainability with a broad coalition of telehealth stakeholders involved in implementation



# Telehealth

In cervical cancer screening and care  
in Rwanda

