

Early detection of breast and cervical cancer in the Kingdom of Morocco

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

- **Background**

- Breast and Cervical cancers are a major health problem : the incidence per 100 000 women was 36.4 for breast cancer and 12.8 for cervical cancer
- Program of early detection of these cancers : National priority ; activities are integrated into the program of reproductive health.

- **Objective**

- Organize a screening program, early diagnosis and treatment of these two cancers and integrate all activities in the levels of health system.



METHODS

- The implementation was based on the epidemiological data, the national health system and the sector of health care provision. The analysis allowed:
 1. to define the target populations, to select the screening tests : **clinical breast examination (CBE)** and **visual inspection of the cervix with acetic acid 5% (VIA)** and to establish a guidance system and participants reliance ;
 2. to provide screening and early diagnosis at the primary healthcare facility network as well as the treatment of precancerous cervical cancer
 3. to treat invasive cases in oncology centers.
- The implementation was carried out as part of a strategic partnership between the Lalla Salma Association against Cancer, UNFPA and the Ministry of Health



RESULTS

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- The early detection of breast cancer is widespread through the sector of health care provision in Morocco while that of cervical cancer currently involves five major regions of Morocco ;
- CBE is done in all public health centers (PHC) and VIA is regularly done in more than 300 PHC, Early diagnosis by mammography and colposcopy is done in the regional referral centers of reproductive health
- 1,228 health care providers were trained in techniques for early detection, 38 gynecologists were trained in colposcopy,
- For breast cancer, the screening participation rate is 44.3% nationally and 4,780 cases of cancer were diagnosed. For cervical cancer, in 2011, the screening participation rate was 3%, and 186 of precancerous lesions were screened and treated, 48 cases of invasive cervical cancers diagnosed at the PHC while 1,625 cases were diagnosed and treated at national level.