

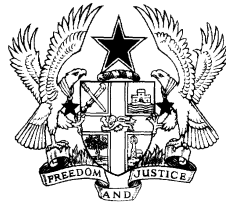
In case of reply the number
And the date of this letter
should be quoted

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
P O BOX M-44
ACCRA

12th March, 2007

My Ref No. MOH/GAD/CervCa/002

Your Ref No.



TEL. No:233-21-684247/665323/660301/679487
FAX No:233-21-670076/663810/660176

REPUBLIC OF GHANA

To whom it may concern:

Ghana will like to add its voice to the growing chorus of organizations intent on mobilizing significant action against cervical cancer. For that reason, we have shared this communication with Cervical Cancer Action for inclusion in a global dossier documenting international interest in the issue.

In Ghana, cervical cancer is one of the most common female cancers and many of our women suffer terribly from this disease. When mothers, aunties, or grandmothers die from cervical cancer, it can tear the fabric of the family and put additional pressure on scarce, local resources. In some places it is common for these women to be caretakers of children left orphaned by HIV and other diseases.

Now we have an unprecedented opportunity to make a difference. New evidence suggests that simple visual inspection methods and new HPV DNA tests could make pre-cancer screening a reality even in the most remote settings. Better screening will result in lives saved in the next few years.

Furthermore, HPV vaccines given to young girls now will prevent future infections and save lives for decades to come. Programs designed to protect adolescent girls through vaccination have the potential also to offer other needed health interventions to that underserved population.

Our country is ready to work in partnership with the global community to make these new tools available appropriately and effectively to the girls and women who need them most.

Sincerely,

Major Courage E. K. Quashigah (Rtd)
Hon. Minister