



ECOM Foundation's Partnership with Grounds for Health

Since 2006, ECOM Foundation has supported Grounds for Health's mission to provide life-saving preventive health care to women in coffee producing communities through its "Screen and Treat" clinic program. In the first decade, the ECOM Foundation and Grounds for Health partnered with ECOM affiliates in low resource regions of Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, and Tanzania to screen for cervical pre-cancer and treat when appropriate. More recently, ECOM Foundation's funding has facilitated Grounds for Health expansion to Nyeri county, Kenya. Kathy Hollandsworth, Operations Director for Grounds for Health, tells us that "ECOM Foundation's funding was instrumental in getting the new program off the ground, allowing Grounds for Health to engage local facilities and to attract additional partners to support the program." Additional words of thanks from Evah Maina, Kenya Program Coordinator, helps quantify the ECOM Foundation's impact in Kenya:

With the help of the ECOM Foundation, we have been able to scale up our Kenya program from three startup facilities to seven. We have trained 24 health care providers who are now certified to use VIA (Visual Inspection with Acidic Acid) and cryotherapy, and 56 community health volunteers and community health extension workers on VIA awareness. Grounds for Health is working to meet the capacity building need in VIA. In fact, the Nyeri County health department has adopted the Grounds for Health training model throughout the region. We also hold special screening campaigns for women in hard to reach areas, bridging the gap of access to services because of distance from health facilities. (See photo to the right)

In addition to providing direct services to women, Grounds for Health is focused on delivering effective emerging technologies to Kenya. Thermal ablation is now a mode of treatment at Nyeri Town Health Centre. We have provided one thermal ablation device—which is the only one in Nyeri county and possibly in Kenya. We are slowly transforming Nyeri County into a model

cervical cancer "Screen and Treat" county! Our main challenge in service delivery is to address the screening knowledge gap with VIA, and at the same time expand our geographical coverage.

We look forward to expanding more in Nyeri County. We are currently in seven facilities out of 120. We are like a drop in the ocean, but our impact is huge! At the end of the day, we thank ECOM Foundation. You have enabled us to make a difference in women's lives. Truly, you have helped save lives! Most of the women we screen and treat could never have afforded it, were it not free of charge. You may never know the magnitude of your help and the depth of our gratitude.



Evah Maina, Kenya Program Coordinator



Kenya Training Meeting. Using a laptop to display images of abnormal cells allows staff to confer on a diagnosis. GfH staff in the field regularly upload images for review by experts and case study discussion as a tool for learning and as a second opinion.



Waiting for medical treatment. It's the same the world over. Sometimes waiting is an encouraging sign because that means that our community outreach was successful and we have a good turnout at screening campaigns.