

GRANT CALL FOR PROPOSALS

GRANT ISSUER: Ministry of Health/Uganda Cancer Institute/Korea Foundation for International Healthcare (KOFIH)

BACKGROUND:

Cervical cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related illness and death among women in Uganda, despite being largely preventable through early diagnosis and timely medical intervention. Successful prevention efforts depend not only on the availability of screening and vaccination services but also on public awareness, user satisfaction with these services, and effective channels for sharing health information.

In Uganda, numerous cultural, economic, and systemic challenges still limit access to and use of cervical cancer prevention services. A significant number of women remain uninformed about the risk factors, warning signs, and the importance of routine screening. Furthermore, dissatisfaction with services—stemming from issues such as inadequate communication, long wait times, or insufficient resources—can deter women from seeking care in the future. The ways in which health information is delivered within communities also play a critical role in shaping both understanding and attitudes toward prevention.

To tackle these challenges, the Uganda Cancer Institute, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and with support from the Korea Foundation for International Healthcare (KOFIH), is implementing the “National Cancer Management and Capacity Building Project in Uganda.” Launched in 2023, the project focuses on Kampala City, Mbarara City, and Mbarara District as pilot areas. Its primary goal is to strengthen the prevention and early detection systems to improve access to cancer care services across the country.

The project concentrates on four key areas: strengthening the national cancer control framework, building capacity for cervical cancer screening through pilot interventions, modernizing cancer screening infrastructure, and enhancing the skills of healthcare workers. Health workers from Health Center III level and above have been trained and health facility equipped to deliver cervical cancer screening and prevention services. The project also supports community outreach activities, engagement meetings, and a range of public awareness efforts such as TV and radio programs, Village Health Team (VHT) training, use of megaphones, and cancer awareness road drives.

Despite these investments in infrastructure and capacity building, there is still a gap in the number of women accessing these services, which remains lower than expected.

PURPOSE OF THE GRANT:

This grant invites research proposals that will explore challenges such as low awareness and limited access to cervical cancer screening services by integrating technology, community-based approaches, and health system strengthening to enhance screening coverage, early detection, and linkage to care. Specifically, proposals should aim to:

- Examine the level of community knowledge regarding cervical cancer risk factors and prevention strategies.
- Assess client satisfaction with screening services, educational sessions, and other related interventions.
- Evaluate the impact and effectiveness of various communication and awareness channels used under the National Cancer Management and Capacity Building Project in Uganda—such as radio talk shows, radio spots, community radio announcements, spot messages, community outreaches, public engagement activities, megaphone announcements, and Village Health Teams (VHTs).

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:

Funded projects should aim to:

- Determine the level of knowledge and perceptions among community members regarding cervical cancer.
- Measure satisfaction among individuals who have accessed screening or participated in awareness programs.
- Identify and evaluate the most effective communication channels used to promote cervical cancer services.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- Open to institutions or researchers based in Uganda.
- Eligible applicants include public health organizations, universities, hospitals, NGOs, and independent researchers with institutional affiliation.
- Applicants must demonstrate intention to obtain ethical approval and complete the project within 4 months.

FUNDING AND DURATION:

- **Grant Amount:** Maximum of USD 20,000
- **Project Duration:** Maximum of 4 months from the date of award

OUTPUTS

Upon completion of the project, the recipient is expected to:

1. Present the research findings to stakeholders during scheduled workshops or meetings organized by the Uganda Cancer Institute, Ministry of Health, and KOFIH.
2. Publish a minimum of one article in a recognized and credible peer-reviewed journal.
3. Submit the published article for inclusion in the Uganda Cancer Institute's Institutional Repository.

4. Provide a final project report with evidence documents for expenditures to the Uganda Cancer Institute.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Applicants must submit:

- **Project proposal** (maximum 10 pages), including background, objectives, methods, timeline, and a completed budget in a provided template
- **CV(s)** of the principal investigator and co-investigators.
- **Letter of institutional support** (if applicable).
- **Ethical clearance** or an intention to obtain it within the first month of the project.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The research proposal shall be written in Microsoft Word, Times New Roman, Font 12, single spacing, and normal margins. Proposals should not exceed Ten (10) pages.

The proposal shall be submitted in soft copy to the email research@uci.or.ug and kofihugandarecruit@gmail.com and copy nixon.niyonzima@uci.or.ug and snabikande@kofihfield.org by Friday, 18th July 2025, at 5:00 PM.

The proposal shall be addressed to: -

Executive Director

Uganda Cancer Institute
Upper Mulago Hill Road Kampala, Uganda
P O Box 3935, Kampala – Uganda

SELECTION PROCESS

All proposals will be subjected to:

- Administrative review by 25th July 2025
- External review by 1st August, 2025
- Selection by the committee by 8th August, 2025

FEEDBACK

All applicants will be notified of the status of their application at the end of each selection process stage.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

For more details or clarification, please contact: Mr. Mpamani Collins Jackson, Cancer Project coordinator on collins.mpamani@uci.or.ug or +256772574547

Appendix: Budget Template

Budget template for the Proposed Grant call						Dollar Rate 3600	
						Estimated cost	
	Budget Item	QTY	Unit Cost (UGX)	Unit Cost (USD)	No. of days	UGX	USD
A	Preparatory Activities - Proposal development						
	Snacks for meetings						
B	Research Ethics Approval						
	Translation of consent forms and data collection tools						
	IRB approval						
	UNCST approval						
C	Training & Pre-testing						
	Meals and refreshments for trainers and trainees						
	SDA for trainees and trainers						
	Car hire and fuel for pre-testing						
D	Data Collection (Perdiem, transport and fuel)						
	Perdiem Research Assistant						
	Perdiem of field supervisor						
	Perdiem for Driver						
	Refreshments for FGDs participants						
	Perdiem for investigators						
	Car hire & fuel						
E	Personnel honorarium						
	Lead PI						
	Project manager						
	M&E expert						
	Data Manager						
F	Data Electronic information						
	Mobile internet						
	Programming tool						
	Tablet hire						
G	Other direct Costs						
	Stationary (printing & photocopying paper)						
	Airtime for communication (Investigator)						
	Airtime for Research Assistants						
Total budget Cost						72,000,000	20,000