

# CERVICAL CANCER

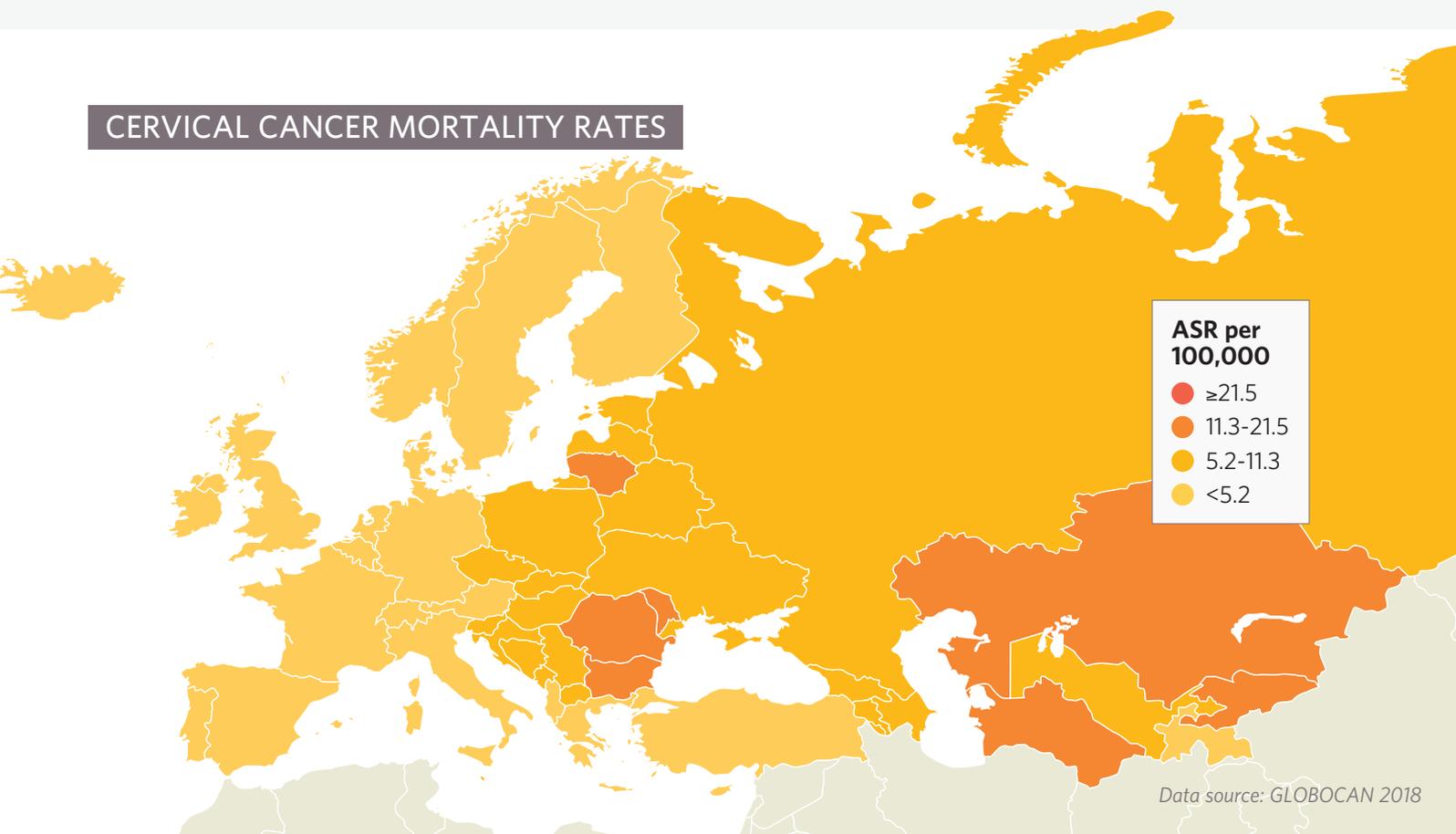
Eastern Europe & Central Asia



## WHY SHOULD WE PRIORITISE CERVICAL CANCER PREVENTION?

- Cervical cancer takes a high emotional, social, and financial toll on women, their families, and national health systems.
- The cancer primarily affects younger women at the peak of their career and caregiving responsibilities.
- Nearly every case of cervical cancer can be prevented.
- Most cases occur in low- and middle-income countries without cervical cancer prevention programmes.
- Screening in most countries in the region happens only when a patient or doctor specifically requests it, an approach that has been shown to under-screen vulnerable groups, who have a higher cancer risk.

### CERVICAL CANCER MORTALITY RATES



Data source: GLOBOCAN 2018

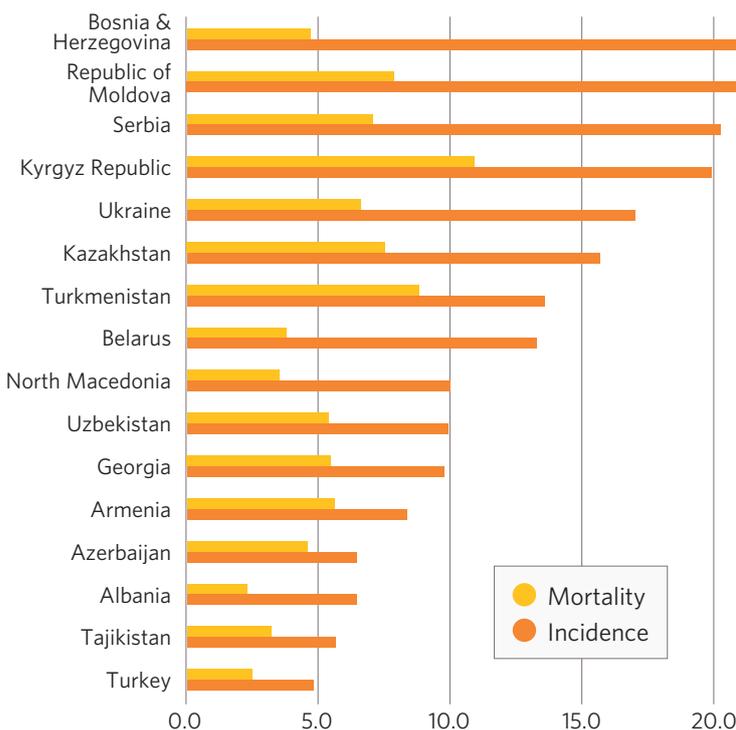
# HOW DOES CERVICAL CANCER PREVENTION WORK?

- Almost every case of cervical cancer could be prevented if countries implemented well-organised, evidence-based, easily accessible cervical screening programmes combined with the vaccination of adolescent girls for human papillomavirus (HPV), a common sexually transmitted virus that can cause the cancer.
- Organised screening programmes must systematically recruit women to be tested, monitor attendance or follow-up, and ensure all component services are of high quality. This ensures the widest possible coverage, and delivers the most cost-effective reductions in cancer rates.
- Cervical screening in most Eastern European and Central Asian countries has been based on cervical cytology (the Pap test). However, in countries with systems to monitor the follow-up of screen-

positive women, testing for high-risk HPV types may be a more effective option.

- Although most countries in the region offer cervical screening and cancer treatment free of charge, very few cover the cost of following-up a positive screening test or the treatment of precancerous lesions - a necessary element in any successful prevention programme. All the services involved in cervical screening, from the initial screening test through to the treatment of pre-invasive disease as well as cancer, should be provided free of charge to all women of screening age.
- Programmes providing free HPV vaccination to adolescents are crucial for reducing the incidence of cervical cancer. In most countries in the region, this vaccination is available primarily through private providers on a patient-pay basis.
- In order to mitigate the social and economic burdens of cervical cancer, it is recommended to establish national mechanisms to ensure that screening services are of high quality and can be equally accessed by all women in the target population.

## NEW CASES & DEATHS FROM CERVICAL CANCER IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE EECA REGION



Age-Standardized Cervical Cancer Incidence and Mortality Rates per 100,000 Women  
Source: Globocan 2018

**46,000**  
NEW CASES PER YEAR

**21,000**  
DEATHS PER YEAR

**2<sup>ND</sup>**  
MOST DEADLY CANCER  
AMONG REPRODUCTIVE-  
AGE WOMEN

**90%**  
PREVENTABLE CASES