

From: [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation - The Optimist](#)
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The Optimist

Relentless pursuit of an equitable world

Hello,

Vaccines are one of humanity's greatest achievements. Take the HPV vaccine. It can prevent a woman from facing deadly cervical cancer. And while it was initially thought that a person would need at least three doses of the vaccine, [scientists have shown that just a single jab provides powerful protection](#).

The life-saving potential is enormous, given that nearly 350,000 women die of cervical cancer each year—and 90% of them are in low- and middle-income countries. Although this safe and effective vaccine has been available for almost two decades, in 2022, just 21% of girls worldwide had received a dose.

Why do rates of uptake remain low? And what can be done about it? Anita Zaidi, president of the foundation's Gender Equity Division and a former pediatrician, shares her insights in a recent article: [Four things to know about the HPV vaccine](#).

Today is the last day of World Immunization Week. In the past 50 years, vaccines have reduced infant deaths by 40% and saved 154 million lives. To maintain that momentum, governments and funders must continue to invest in vaccines, including funding Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, this year.

[Uncover the basic facts you should know about the HPV vaccine, this week in Ideas.](#)

– *The Optimist* Editors

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Featured articles



By Anita Zaidi

Four things to know about the single-dose HPV vaccine for cervical cancer

Anita Zaidi, the head of the Gates Foundation's Gender Equality Division, explains how going down to one dose of the vaccine that prevents cervical cancer could save the lives of thousands of women each year.

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Unlocking Africa Podcast



Advancing Women's Economic Power in Africa

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Reuters



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Medical professionals in Nigeria are officially cleared to administer a promising new vaccine that aims to protect people from a deadly disease.

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