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## Final report for the Eagle Foundation – April 2017

Screening equipment for detecting women's cancer on board the Lifeline Express hospital train

File form: 00385

**Background:** In 2016, IMPACT India was gifted two new rail carriages by Indian Railways. Thanks to generous donors around the world, including Fondation Eagle, IMPACT India have been able to transform these carriages into a mobile cancer screening unit and additional operating theatre.

Your grant was used to purchase equipment for cervical cancer screening, including a gynocular colposcope (for examining the cervix); as well as a specially adapted examination couch, privacy screen, work station and patient bed. These are all now in-situ; and since January 2017, cervical cancer-screening has been incorporated into the regular schedule of services available on board the hospital train.

The delivery of cervical cancer-screening was a high priority for IMPACT India when planning the expansion of the Lifeline Express, since this cancer is the leading cause of death in middle-aged Indian women; and responsible for 20% of all female cancer-related deaths in India.

Dr Mehak Sikka, the Chief Medical Officer on board the Lifeline Express describes in greater detail the importance of this service: *'Cervical Cancer is usually asymptomatic and cannot be diagnosed at an early stage. However, with adequate screening, Cervical Cancer can be detected in its precancerous or early stage. During the screening there is a high chance of missing low-grade lesions and lesions in their early stages by naked eye examination. To overcome this problem a colposcope is used during the process of examination. It is a lighted magnifying device. A camera is attached to the colposcope to take pictures or videos of the cervix (opening of the uterus) during the examination, which can be used to look at the cervix for problem areas seen during naked eye examination, an*



Colposcopy procedure on the Lifeline Express



The expanded hospital train now has an extra two carriages

abnormal PAP (smear) report, high-risk type of Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) patients and to check a sore or other problem found on or around the vagina and the cervix. During the process of colposcopy the cervix is painted with acetic acid and Lugols iodine solution using a cotton swab. The cervix is then viewed under the colposcope. The complete procedure usually takes about 10 minutes.'



Breast and oral cancer screenings were introduced from mid December 2016, with the first oral cancer surgery taking place on December 24<sup>th</sup>. Cervical cancer screening was added from January 2017, as soon as the equipment was installed and staff fully trained to use it. So far 1,714 women have been screened for breast cancer and 58 women have undergone a thorough colposcopic examination for cervical cancer.



1. Close-up view of the colposcope
2. A consultation in process at the new work station
3. (& 4) Examination couch

As well as providing early diagnosis for breast and cervical cancer and referrals for timely treatment, another important aspect of this project is raising awareness amongst rural communities of the signs and symptoms of cancer that require immediate investigation. For example, irregular bleeding or unusual changes in breast tissue. To this aim, 73 local health workers have been trained to pass on

vital health messages to women in their community; and health education posters and leaflets have been distributed to women registering for treatment on board the hospital train.

**Thank you** It is early days of the project, and we expect that over the course of the year approximately 10,500 women will benefit from screening and treatment for female cancers as the hospital train travels across India to locations including Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh over the coming year. Lives will be saved thanks to timely diagnosis and referral for treatment.

## Expenditure statement

<b>Cervical cancer screening equipment</b>	<b>Cost (£)</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
<i>Gynocular colposcope for detection of cervical cancer</i>	3,971	3,971
<i>Tru-cut biopsy needle</i>	448	448
<i>Gynaecology examination couch</i>	419	419
<i>Medical accessories and furniture including privacy screen, work tables and patient bed</i>	1,193	1,193
<b>Sub-total</b>	6,031	6,031
<b>Monitoring and evaluation</b>		
Project management (IMPACT India) @ 5%	302	302
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,333</b>	<b>6,333</b>

*Exchange rate based on 1 GBP = 97.46 INR (01.06.2016)*