

The Phosboucraa Foundation Takes Action for Women's Health in Dakhla and Aousserd

- **A breast and uterine cancer screening campaign targeting 3,000 women in Dakhla and Aousserd provinces.**
- **Two days of training in screening techniques for 25 members of medical teams from Dakhla and Aousserd.**
- **Launch of a research study to identify the infection causing uterine cancer in the Southern regions for the first time.**

After Laayoune and Boujdour in June 2018, the Phosboucraa Foundation's breast and uterine cancer screening campaign will be held in the provinces of Dakhla and Boujdour from **September 24 to October 3, 2018.**

With women's development being central to its priorities, which it addresses in particular through improving their health, the Phosboucraa Foundation is mobilizing a specialized medical team to **screen 3,000 women in Dakhla and Aousserd**, with the help of the Ministry of Health, the Dakhla-Oued Ed-Dahab Regional Health Directorate, the Moroccan Association for Public and Environmental Health (AMSPEV), and the Lalla Salma Foundation. Patients will be welcomed, educated and listened to, and then diagnosed and referred to the nearest oncology centers. The campaign's goal is to **screen 2,050 women aged 40 to 69 for breast cancer and 1,370 women aged 30 to 49 for cervical cancer.**

This outreach initiative is a complement to a skills development program for local medical teams. Thus, as was the case at the Laayoune and Boujdour stage, the screening campaign will begin with the **training of 25 healthcare providers on teaching VIA and colposcopy procedures.** The two-day training will take place on September 24 and 25 2018 at the Oued Ed-Dahab General Hospital and will be led by Professor Lahcen Boukhani (Marrakech University Hospital) and Dr. Mohammed Zraidi (AMSPEV).

Speaking to the impact of her training courses scheduled at the same time as the screening campaigns, Ms. Belksir Fatma, a nurse in Laayoune and beneficiary of the training, declared in June 2018: "Thanks to this training, we are now able to perform cancer screening ourselves."

In addition to the training sessions, the Dakhla Aousserd stage includes **the launch of a research study to identify the infection causing uterine cancer in the Southern regions.** This study, the first of its kind in the region, will help determine the most common circulating HPV (**human papillomavirus**) genotypes in a representative population of women from different regions of the Kingdom. The research on the screening and genotyping of HPV, the infection responsible for uterine cancer, will be carried out during the campaign by the AMSPEV team. The target population is consenting women aged 25 to 65 participating in the Dakhla province campaign.

THE PHOSBOUCRAA FOUNDATION'S HEALTH PROGRAM IN NUMBERS

In 4 years, **43 000** patients benefited from the health program

17 medical caravans held

5,646 surgical procedures

2015:

- Medical and surgical caravan in Dakhla that provided 50 surgical procedures and 1,484 consultations;
- Operation Smile Morocco, a dental humanitarian mission providing 1,241 children with access to consultation, diagnosis, and treatment;
- Multidisciplinary health campaign in the Guelmim region benefiting 20,437 people.

2016:

- Oral care days in Sidi Ifni and Guelmim raising awareness among 1,040 children;
- Deployment of a mobile hospital in the port city of El Marsa; 2,417 patients received consultations and were examined;
- Support for the launch of the Sheikh Zaid Foundation scholarships benefiting 5 students;
- Acquisition of 2 mobile mammography units and 2 ultrasound scanners for the Lalla Salma Foundation to help in the prevention and treatment of cancer.

2017:

- Surgical intervention days in Laayoune: 154 surgical procedures and 157 medical examinations performed;
- Surgical mission to Laayoune: 169 surgical procedures and 1,728 medical consultations performed;
- Dental mission to Dakhla benefiting 894 schoolchildren.

2018:

- Medical caravan during the month of Ramadan 1439/2018 benefiting 26,530 people;
- Breast and cervical cancer screening campaign in the provinces of Laayoune and Boujdour.
 - Number of breast cancer screenings performed: **1,837**
 - Number of cervical cancer screenings performed: **1,576**

About the Phosboucraa Foundation:

Created in 2014, the Phosboucraa Foundation carries out the social and societal commitment of OCP Group, and especially of its subsidiary Phosboucraa, for the benefit of the long-term socioeconomic development of the Kingdom's Southern regions.

The Foundation's commitment is aimed at:

- Contributing to the improvement of the local populations' incomes
- Educating, training, and improving the quality of life of the most vulnerable populations
- Promoting natural and cultural heritage;
- Revitalizing the area by improving its attractiveness.

The Foundation's actions are five-fold:

- Social development (education, training, and health);
- Encouragement of entrepreneurship;
- Development and promotion of culture and sport;
- Agricultural development and environmental conservation;
- Urban development.

In order to ensure the success of its actions on the long term, the Foundation applies an integrated vision based on listening and working in concert with all contributors, and, particularly through partnerships, mobilizes all the necessary expertise to implement each project.