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## **The States of Women's Gynecologic Health in Africa**

*Rationale:* Understanding the variation in regions of the African continent is essential, as highlighted by the United Nations Statistics Division. Diving into the resources for women's health across these regions helps us gain insights that are necessary for policymaking and targeted interventions. Analyzing the impact of underlying diseases on fertility and family dynamics provides a comprehensive understanding of the challenges women face. This knowledge helps in making inferences about how their health can be positively transformed for the future. Additionally, exploring local women's health issues on the Eastern Shore of Maryland offers ways of application in global insights and emphasizes the severity of solving certain challenges. Connecting these issues to specific UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) helps in showing the significance of addressing women's health, linking local actions to the global overall agenda. These educational practices allow one to have an interconnected perspective and empowers individuals to contribute meaningfully to health initiatives that align with international development goals.

*Objective:* The main objective is to gain insight into women's gynecologic health across African regions. This approach involves exploring available components to help with healthcare progression and assessing the effects of pre-existing conditions that act on fertility and reproductive success through statistical evidence and surveys. Drawing these informed conclusions will help come up with ways to enhance health outcomes and assess the value in addressing these concerns that align with particular UN SDGs.

*Activities employed:* The activities and practices employed include addressing cervical cancer challenges in Africa. Practices employed include conducting surveys for broader representation and establishing public sector screenings. Widely known knowledge through cross-sectional surveys reveals gaps in understanding HPV's cancer-causing potential. Efforts to address reproductive health problems in Africa involve accessible healthcare, drug treatment programs, and educational initiatives. For treatments, increasing the free education system on a regional level can help negate the challenge that lies in limited access to radiotherapy due to job scarcity and high costs. Even with the difficulties the continent encounters, these worldwide efforts show potential for positive outcomes in the future.

*Results:* The findings reveal significant challenges in cervical cancer management across the extended Middle East and North African (EMENA) regions. Limited data collection, biased information, and inadequate resources contribute to undetected HPV and late-stage cervical cancer, resulting in higher mortality rates for women. Privately funded screenings have data scarcity, while financial constraints and lifestyle factors further prevent access to HPV screening and treatments. Addressing these issues demands systematic screening programs, public sector involvement, and increased awareness. Maternal health issues emphasize the need for accessible healthcare, preventive services, and interventions to reduce maternal mortality in Africa. It was also found on a local level that the plight of migrant women in Maryland's crab industry emphasizes the urgency for legal protections and outreach not just in Africa, but worldwide. Aligning actions with UN SDGs is crucial to advancing women's health, education, and equality.

*Lessons learned:* Increasing awareness about gynecologic health in Africa is vital. Success involves culturally mindful connections and continental partnerships especially since other locations battle the same problems. Failures stem from misunderstanding health impacts, limited resources, and what many deem as societal norms. Opportunities lie in using advanced and affordable technology and collaborating globally. These lessons stress the need for more tailored education, the UN's involvement, and continuous efforts to transform attitudes and practices for better women's health in Africa.

*Key messages:* In this project, we will discuss the UN's regional divisions in Africa, going into women's health resources across Northern, Central, Southern, East, and Western Africa. An analysis of the impact of underlying diseases on fertility and households will help infer ways to enhance health and address major women's health issues.