

RADIO SCRIPT

A guide to the HPV Vaccine local Radio Broadcast Series



Synopsis

Title: Shield her future, vaccinate against HPV.

Target Audience: Grade 5 girls (10 yrs), their parents, teachers, school authorities, traditional leaders (chiefs, healers), religious leaders, young boys, and healthcare workers.

Format: 15-minute episodes, broadcast weekly in the evening on national and community radio stations to reach families. The language will be a mix of English, Shona, and Ndebele for broad accessibility, using simple, relatable terms.

Host: A warm, friendly, and trustworthy female host, "Auntie Prevention "Prevvv)"

Core Message: The HPV vaccine is a safe, effective, and necessary shield to protect our girls from cervical cancer, allowing them to grow up strong and achieve their dreams. It is a single act of love today for a lifetime of health.

Episode 1: Introducing Our Super Heroines!

Primary Audience: Girls **Secondary Audience:** Parents, Teachers **Goal:** To introduce the series, demystify the concept of vaccines, and frame health as a superpower.

- (Intro Music: Upbeat, catchy Afro-pop jingle with children's voices)

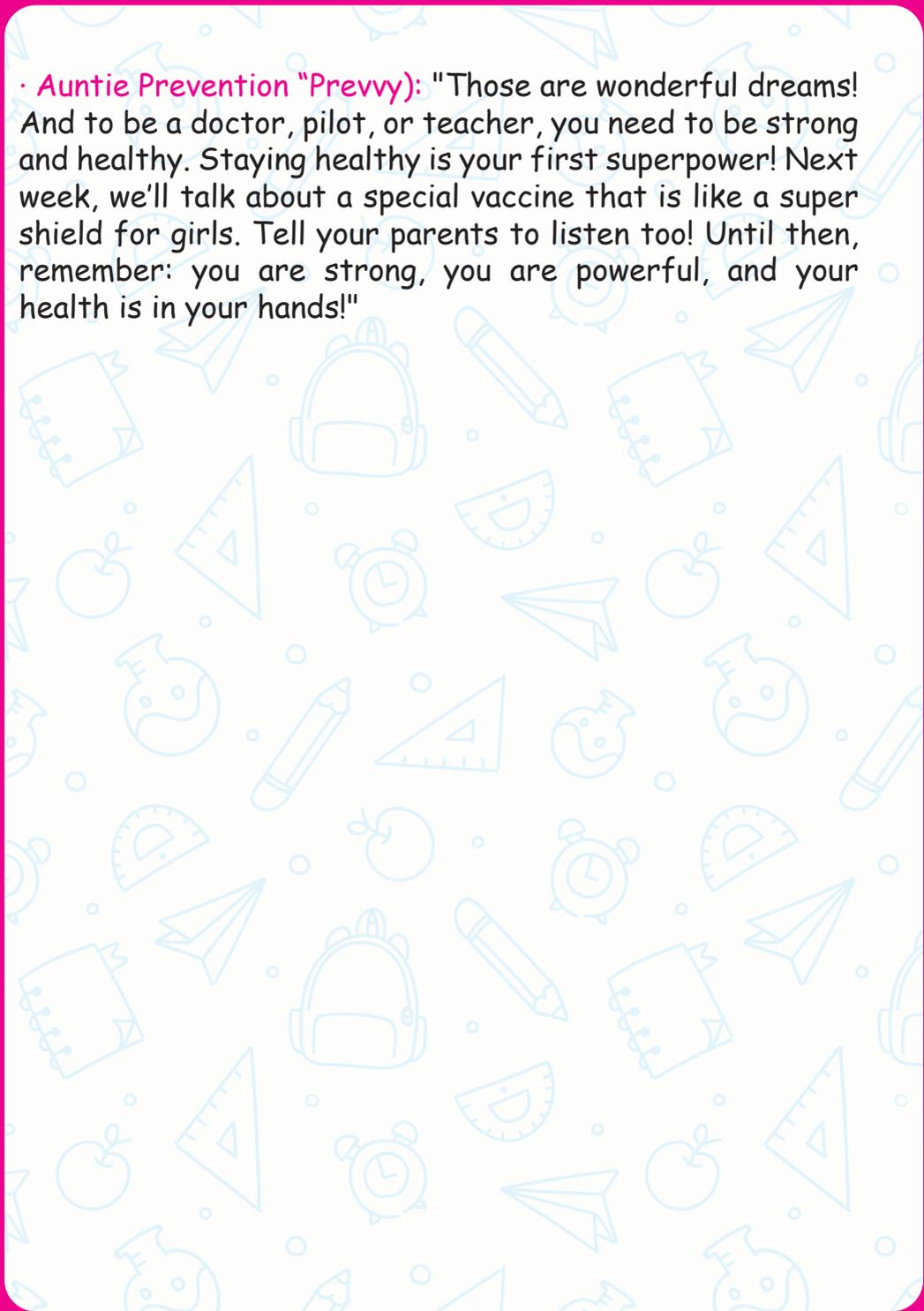
- **Auntie Prevention "Prevvv"):** "Hello and welcome, future leaders! This is Auntie Prevention "Prevvv), and you're listening to 'Shield her future, vaccinate against HPV!' A show all about you, your health, and your amazing dreams. Today, we're talking about how to be a superhero! Did you know your body has its own superpower? It's called your immune system! It's like an army of tiny soldiers inside you that fights off germs that can make you sick."

- (Sound effect: Tiny heroic "whoosh" sounds)

- **Auntie Prevention "Prevvv):** "Sometimes, the germs are very tricky. So, smart doctors created a special training program for your immune system army. It's called a vaccine! It's like a training simulation - it shows your soldiers what the bad germ looks like so they can practice defeating it, without you ever getting sick. Then, if the real germ ever shows up, your army shouts 'Shield!' and defeats it fast!"

- **Vox Pop (Pre-recorded voices of children):** "I want to be a doctor!" / "I'm going to be a pilot!" / "I want to be a teacher!"

• **Auntie Prevention "Prevvv"):** "Those are wonderful dreams! And to be a doctor, pilot, or teacher, you need to be strong and healthy. Staying healthy is your first superpower! Next week, we'll talk about a special vaccine that is like a super shield for girls. Tell your parents to listen too! Until then, remember: you are strong, you are powerful, and your health is in your hands!"



Episode 2: The Special Shield for Girls (HPV Explained Simply)

Primary Audience: Girls, Parents **Goal:** Explain HPV and the vaccine in a simple, non-stigmatizing, and empowering way.

· **Auntie Prevention "Prevvv):** "Welcome back, superstars! Last week we talked about your body's superpower. Today, we meet a special shield - the HPV vaccine."

· **Auntie Prevention "Prevvv):** "HPV is a very common name for a virus, just like flu is a name for a virus. Most times, our body fights it off without us knowing. But sometimes, certain types of HPV can stay in the body and cause problems much, much later when a girl becomes a woman. One of these problems is a sickness called cervical cancer. That sounds scary, but we have a amazing shield to prevent it!"

· **Guest (Friendly Nurse Sister Anna):** "Hello, girls and parents. I am Nurse Anna. The HPV vaccine is this shield. It teaches the body how to fight off the types of HPV that can cause cancer. It's a simple, quick injection in the arm. It might pinch for a second, but that quick pinch is so powerful—it protects you for life. It's best given to girls in Grade 5 or age 10, before they are exposed to the virus."

· **Auntie Prevention "Prevvv):** "Thank you, Sister Anna! So, parents and guardians, this vaccine is a gift of health. It's not about anything your daughter has done; it's about protecting her future. It's safe, it's effective, and it's available for free at your local clinic and soon at your schools."

Episode 3: A Parent's Love, A Parent's Choice

Primary Audience: Parents & Guardians **Goal:** Address parental concerns, provide clear information, and frame vaccination as an act of love.

· **Auntie Prevention "Prevvv):** "Today, we speak directly to the mothers, fathers, aunties, and gogos - everyone who loves and cares for a young girl. Your number one job is to keep her safe. You make sure she eats well, goes to school, and is happy. The HPV vaccine is part of that love."

· **Guest (A Father, Mr. Chiweshe):** "At first i heard rumours that the vaccine is bad. I was worried. But I spoke to our clinic nurse. She told me this vaccine has been given to millions of girls worldwide for over 15 years. It is very safe. The side effects are small, like a sore arm or a slight fever, which means the body is building its shield. I realized not vaccinating was the bigger risk. I chose to protect my daughter and it was a good decision for a healthier future."

· **Auntie Prevention "Prevvv):** "Thank you, Mr. Chiweshe. Parents, you might have questions. Is it safe? Yes. Is it necessary? Yes. Does it encourage early sexual activity? No. Studies show it does not. This is only about preventing cancer. Please, talk to your healthcare worker. Get the facts. Your love is her first protection, and this vaccine is your tool."

Episode 4: Teachers: Champions of Health in School

Primary Audience: Teachers, School Heads **Goal:** Equip teachers with knowledge and position them as crucial allies in the HPV vaccination program.

· Auntie Prevention "Prevvv): "To the teachers and school heads shaping our nation's future, thank you for your work! You teach math, English, and science. But you also teach our children how to live healthy lives. The upcoming HPV vaccination day at school is a vital health lesson."

· Guest (A School Head, Mrs. Ndlovu): "Our school is a place of learning and safety. When the health team comes to provide the HPV vaccine, we see it as a critical part of our duty of care. We ensure parents get the consent forms and correct information.

We prepare the girls, telling them it's a quick health procedure to keep them strong, just like a physical education class for their immune system. We provide information on HPV vaccine benefits, safety and why they should make the decision to get vaccinated. This is important before the actual vaccination. We create a calm and supportive environment because we know a healthy child is a child who can learn and thrive."

Episode 5: Wisdom from the Past, Protection for the Future (Traditional Leaders)

Primary Audience: Traditional Leaders (Chiefs, Headmen, Village Elders, Traditional Healers) **Goal:** Gain the support of respected community custodians by aligning the vaccine with traditional values of protection and community well-being.

· **Auntie Prevention "Prevvv):** "Today, we pay respect to our custodians of culture and tradition - our chiefs, sabhukus, and village elders. Your wisdom has guided our communities for generations. In the past, you protected the village from threats. Today, one threat we can prevent is cervical cancer."

· **Guest (A Chief):** "A community is only as strong as its people. To see our young girls grow into strong, healthy women and lead our communities is our blessing. This new vaccine is a new shield. It is not against our tradition; it is for our future."

I have advised my people to embrace this prevention. It is wise to use the knowledge of today to protect the lives of tomorrow. I urge all community leaders to support this program. Let us protect our daughters."

Episode 6: Faith and Health: A Divine Partnership

Primary Audience: Religious Leaders (Pastors, Priests, Imams) **Goal:** Frame vaccination as an act of stewardship over the gift of health provided by God.

• **Auntie Prevention "Prevvv):** "Good evening to our community of faith. The Bible tells us in 1 Corinthians that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. What does it mean to care for that temple?"

• **Guest (A Pastor):** "It means we must be good stewards of the health God has given us. God provides us with wisdom and intelligence. He has guided doctors and scientists to create this vaccine as a tool for prevention. Using this shield is not a lack of faith; it is using the resources God has provided.

To protect our children from a preventable disease is an act of love and responsibility. As a church, we encourage our congregations to make informed, prayerful decisions for the health of their children."

Episode 7: Brothers, Uncles, and Future Fathers (Role of Boys)

Primary Audience: Young boys (brothers, classmates),
Uncles, Young Men Goal: Address boys to reduce stigma, encourage support for their sisters and classmates, and frame health as a collective community responsibility.

- (Music: catchy and cool)
- **Auntie Prevention "Prevvv):** "Calling all young men, brothers, and future fathers! This show is for you too! Health is everyone's business. The HPV vaccine is for girls, but why should boys care?"
- **Guest (A teenage boy, Tafara):** "At first, my friends and I thought it was a girls' thing and we joked about it. But then my teacher explained that HPV can affect everyone. By girls being protected, it helps stop the spread of the virus, which makes our whole community healthier. My sister got the vaccine. I told her she was brave. It's not something to tease about. Being a real man means protecting your family and supporting your sisters and friends to be healthy."
- **Auntie Prevention "Prevvv):** "Well said, Tafara! Boys, be allies. Support your sisters. This is about respect and community."

Episode 8: Meet the Health Heroes

Primary Audience: Everyone **Goal:** Humanize healthcare workers, build trust, and explain the vaccination process.

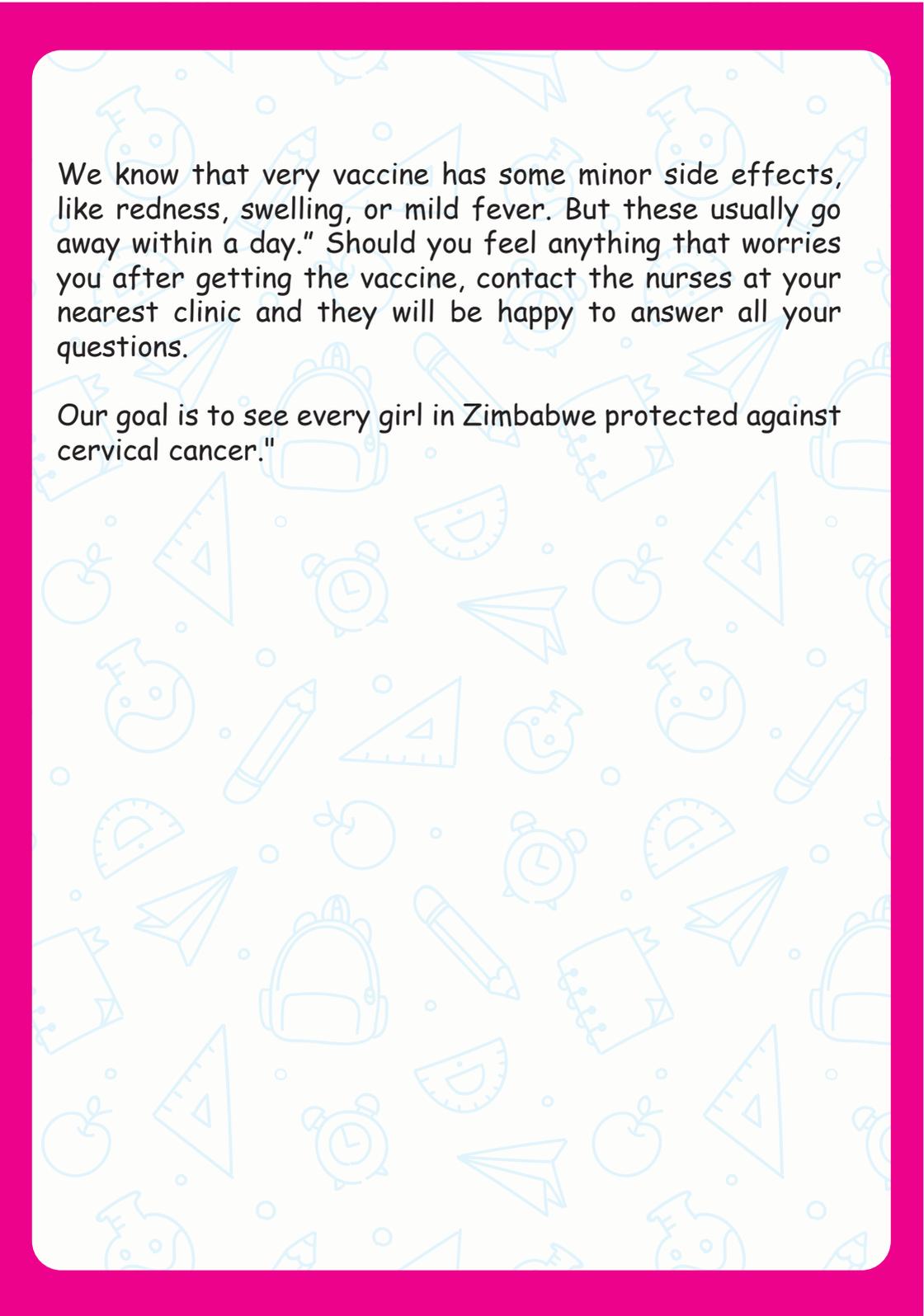
· (Sound of a friendly clinic atmosphere)

· **Auntie Prevention "Prevvy":** "Today, we go inside the clinic to meet our health heroes! These are the nurses and health workers who administer the HPV vaccine."

· **Guest (Nurse, in a busy clinic):** "Hello! We are so excited about this program. We want to assure parents and girls: we are trained, we are gentle, and we care deeply. As mentioned in previous episodes, The HPV vaccine should be given to girls before they are exposed to the virus. Remember, the best time for them to receive the vaccine is when they are 10 year old. The HPV vaccine protects girls against HPV infection. Studies on the vaccine show that it is highly effective at preventing cervical cancer."

Let me assure parents/caregivers that Getting the vaccine will protect your girl/daughter from HPV infection, and this means that she will be protected from cervical cancer in the future."

The process is simple: we check the child's name, we quickly clean a small spot on the arm, and give the injection. It's over in a second!



We know that very vaccine has some minor side effects, like redness, swelling, or mild fever. But these usually go away within a day." Should you feel anything that worries you after getting the vaccine, contact the nurses at your nearest clinic and they will be happy to answer all your questions.

Our goal is to see every girl in Zimbabwe protected against cervical cancer."

Episode 9: Let's Talk: Answering Your Questions

Primary Audience: Parents, Guardians **Goal:** Directly address common myths and FAQs in a clear, factual manner.

- **Auntie Prevention "Prevvv):** "This week, we tackle your questions head-on. We've collected questions from parents and caregivers across the country."
- **Auntie Prevention "Prevvv) (Reading questions):** 'Will the vaccine affect my daughter's fertility?'

Answer: "No, the HPV vaccine does not affect fertility. Extensive research and over 15 years of safety monitoring have shown that the HPV vaccine is safe and does not cause fertility problems.

In fact, not getting vaccinated can increase the risk of developing HPV-related cancers, such as cervical cancer, which may require treatments like surgery, chemotherapy, or radiation — all of which can affect fertility.

By choosing the HPV vaccine, you're helping protect your daughter from future health risks and supporting her right to a healthy, empowered life."

- **Why does my child need the HPV vaccine if they're not sexually active?**

Answer: "Great question! The HPV vaccine works best when given before any exposure to the virus, which often happens through intimate contact.

That's why we vaccinate early—10 year olds—so the body builds strong protection before there's any risk. It's about prevention. Just like we don't wait for someone to get malaria before giving them a net, we don't wait for HPV exposure to give the vaccine.."

·'Is the HPV vaccine safe? Will it not get my child sick?.'

Answer: "Yes, the HPV vaccine is very safe. It's been studied in tens of thousands of people and monitored for over 15 years. Like any vaccine, it can cause mild side effects like a sore arm or slight fever, but these go away quickly. The real benefit is long-term protection against several types of cancer. So when you choose the HPV vaccine, you're choosing safety and prevention."

Episode 10: The Day of the Shield - What to expect on the day of vaccination.

Primary Audience: Girls, Parents **Goal:** Prepare girls and parents for the vaccination day at school to reduce anxiety.

· **Auntie Prevention "Prevvv):** "You have decided to take the shield and your parents have given their full support. Lets play a game of what will happen so you know exactly what to expect."

· **Narrated Scenario:** "firstly you will meet a friendly health team, either at your school or at the clinic. You'll wait your turn with your friends. When it's your turn, the nurse will smile and ask your name.

You'll roll up your sleeve. Deep breath in... and a tiny little pinch... and breath out! All done! You are so brave! You might get a small cotton wool on your arm.

You are now armed with your super shield active. Vaccinated and Protected!!

After vaccination, your arm may feel sore or you may experience aslight fever, but these go away quickly.

Tell your parent/guardian if you continue to experience anything that worries."

Episode 11: Stories of Hope: Why We Do This

Primary Audience: Parents, Community Leaders Goal: Share a powerful testimonial to connect the vaccine to real-life impact.

Auntie Prevention ("Prevvv"): "Good afternoon, parents and community leaders. Today, we have a special, courageous guest. She is here to share her story to protect our daughters and redefine their future. Please welcome Ms. Kambanje."

Ms. Kambanje (Cervical Cancer Survivor): "Thank you. I was diagnosed with cervical cancer in my 30s. The treatment was long, painful, and expensive. I am lucky to be alive. I often think, if this vaccine had been available when I was a girl, I could have avoided that suffering. That pain and fear are now my motivation.

I am not just a survivor; I am an advocate. I look at my 10-year-old niece and I see her future—bright and healthy. I have encouraged my young sister to get the HPV vaccine for her. My story is the reason why. We have the power now to give our girls protection I never had."

Auntie Prevention ("Prevvv"): "Ms. Kambanje's voice is one we must heed. And now, we want to introduce you to someone who made that choice early. Meet Loveness, a mother who understands the power of prevention."

Loveness (28-year-old Young Mother, Vaccinated):

"I was one of the fortunate ones. I got the HPV vaccine when I was a teenager. Back then, it felt like just another shot, but now I understand its true value.

Today, I am a mother to a beautiful, energetic 9-year-old girl. Because I was vaccinated, I've never had to worry about the complications that the vaccine prevents. I am living proof that this small step in prevention can lead to a healthy life.

My daughter turns ten next year, and the first thing I will do is get her vaccinated. I'm not waiting, and I'm not guessing. My generation benefited, and I owe it to her to pass on that shield of protection.

To all the parents listening: You don't have to wait for a scare or a story like Ms. Kambanje's to act. Do it for your daughters. Give them the protection we have available today."

Auntie Prevention ("Prevvv"):

"Two powerful stories, one clear message: The HPV vaccine is a gift of health and a shield for the future. Thank you, Ms. Kambanje and Loveness. Let their testimonies move you to act."

Episode 12: Our Community Pledge

Primary Audience: ALL (Community Wrap-Up) **Goal:** Summarize the key messages and show a unified community front.

- **Auntie Prevention "Prevvv):** "We have heard from everyone! From our chiefs to our teachers, from our nurses to our parents. The message is united: protecting our girls is our shared responsibility."
- **Sound collage of previous guests:**
 - Chief: "It is wise..."
 - Pastor: "It is stewardship..."
 - Teacher: "It is our duty..."
 - Nurse: "It is safe..."
 - Father: "It is love..."
 - Boy: "It is respect..."
 - Mother: "It is the right decision..."
- **Auntie Prevention "Prevvv):** "When the consent form comes home, sign it. When the day comes at school, encourage your daughter. Together, we can make cervical cancer a thing of the past for Zimbabwe's daughters."

Episode 13: Celebrating Our Health Heroes!

Primary Audience: Girls Goal: Celebrate the girls who have been vaccinated, reinforce pride, and close the series on a high note.

- (Music: Celebratory, festive music)
- **Auntie Prevention "Prevvy":** "This is it! The final episode of 'Shield her future, vaccinate against HPV! Protect Our Future!' This show is a huge celebration for every girl who got her super shield! You are the real health heroes!"
- **Vox Pop (Girls sharing their experience):** "It was so quick!" / "I was brave!" / "I'm protected!"
- **Auntie Prevention "Prevvy":** "You have taken a powerful step for your health. Remember this feeling of strength. Carry it with you as you study, play, and dream your big dreams. You are protected. You are powerful. You are the future of Zimbabwe! Thank you for listening. Go well, and stay healthy!"
- (Music fades out)

Stay Safe! Get Vaccinated Against HPV!

Other Resources Available
in the Toolkit Series for HPV

Pamphlets
Flyers
Guide for Boys
Guide for Professionals
Guide for Parents/Guardians
Video Animation Series
TV Series
Radio Series
Website

This HPV+ tool kit was developed by the National AIDS Council with the support of UNICEF, Ministry of Health and Child Care, Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education and the Young People's Network on Health and Wellness

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