

ICCP ECHO: The Research Agenda

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Role of NCI as a funder of research to inform global cancer control priorities

US NCI mission

Lead, conduct, and support cancer research across the nation to advance scientific knowledge and help all people live longer, healthier lives.

Center for Global Health mission

Support the NCI mission by advancing global cancer research, and by coordinating NCI engagement in global cancer control.

Center for Global Health vision

Reduced worldwide cancer suffering through global scientific discovery and dissemination.

CGH core values

Impact, equity, collaboration

Center for Global Health Goals

Research

Support research that (a) addresses key scientific issues in global cancer control (b) leverages unique scientific opportunities afforded by global collaboration.

Research training

Support cancer research training that enables equitable, impactful global scientific collaboration.

Dissemination

Promote the integration of current scientific knowledge into global cancer control policies and practice.

Partnerships

Represent the NCI and promote its engagement with key partners in global cancer research and control.

Research themes

Accelerate technology development for global cancer control.

Accelerate global cancer implementation science.

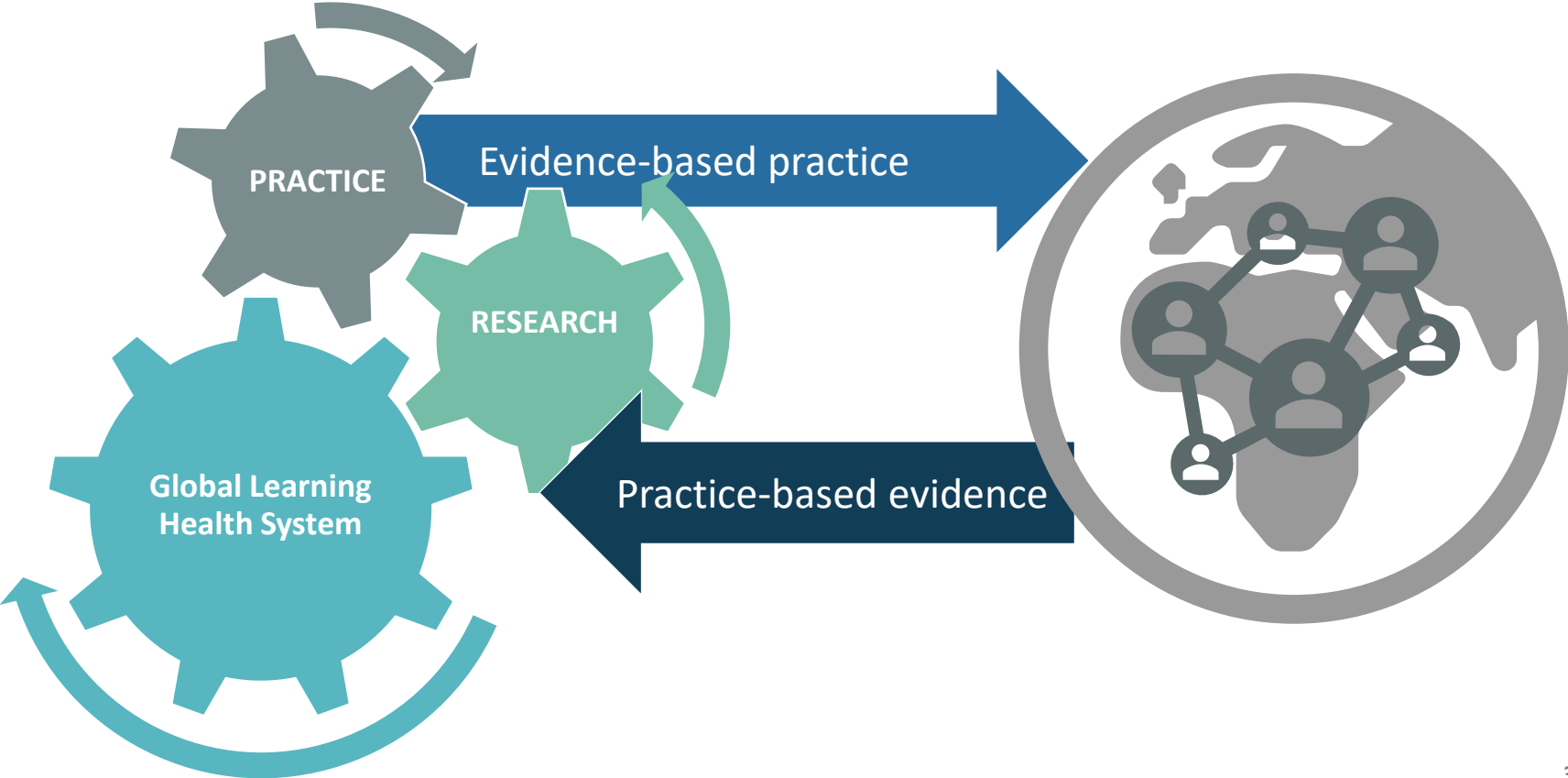
Understand and address global cancer health disparities.

Increase support for cancer clinical trials in LMICs.

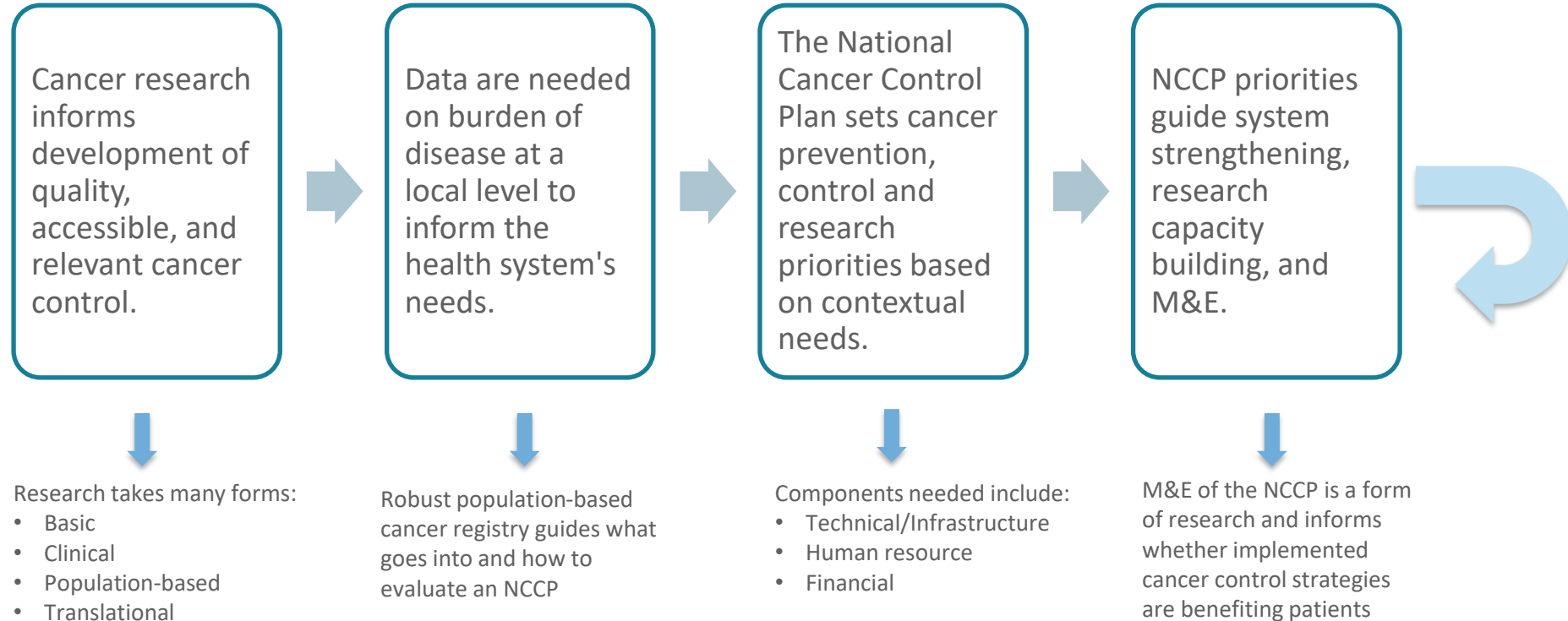
Increase understanding of cancer etiology and biology through global collaboration.



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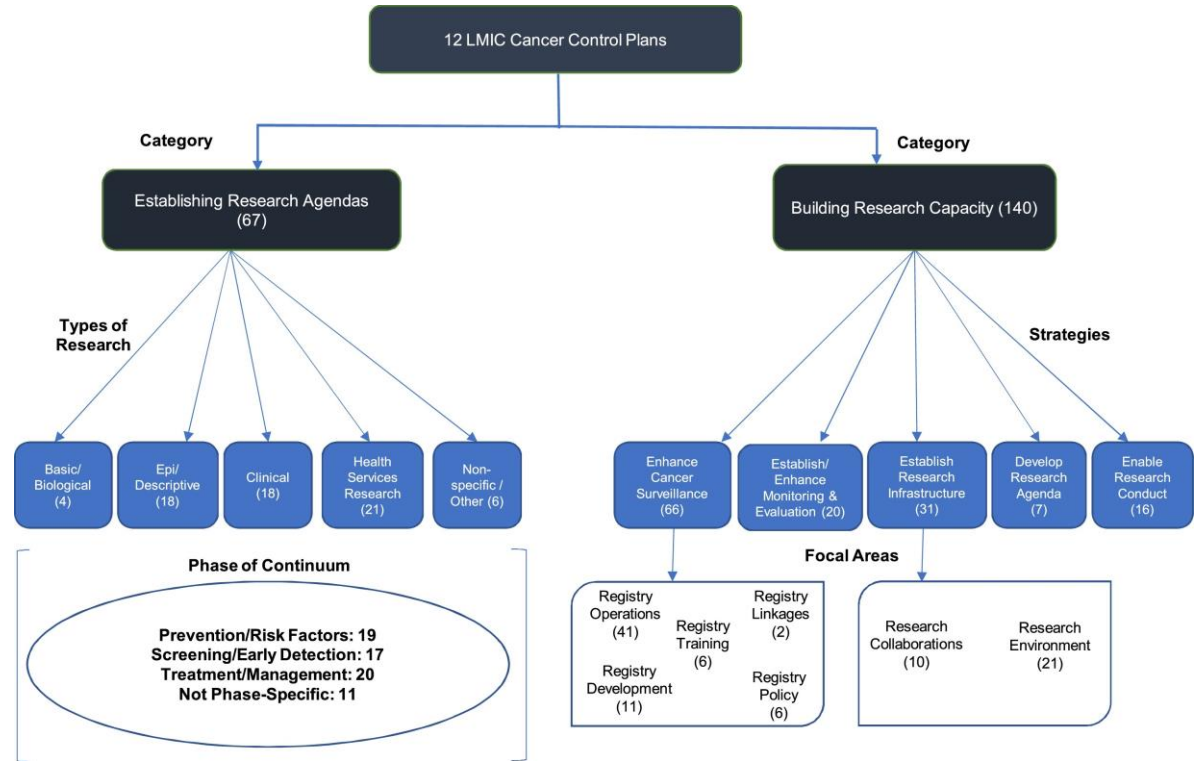


Why research is an important component of cancer control: Cancer research should benefit people everywhere



Findings from: Integration of Research Priorities in Low and Middle-Income Countries: A Qualitative Analysis of National Cancer Control Plans

- 12 LMIC Cancer Plans reviewed (met criteria)
- Two overarching themes identified:
 - Establishing a research agenda
 - Building research capacity
- Focal areas highlighted in the figure



Establishing a research agenda: Research tied to each goal in the NCCP

United States (2023 National Cancer Plan) Goal 1 Prevent Cancer All people and society adopt proven strategies that reduce the risk of cancer.

Examples of NCI Research to Achieve this Goal

NCI supports a broad portfolio of research in cancer prevention, including studies to understand the causes of cancer, characterize the biology of precancerous lesions, and identify and test new prevention approaches, including tobacco cessation, multi-cancer vaccines, and novel prevention agents.

For example, a project supported through the Cancer Moonshot conducts comprehensive molecular analysis of precancerous lesions to identify new targets for prevention therapy. In addition, to better identify and care for individuals with inherited cancer syndromes, genomic research to quantify cancer risk has moved beyond single-gene forms of disease and now focuses on understanding polygenic risk in combination with other clinical and environmental risk factors.

NCI's commitment to funding cancer prevention research is essential because the private sector is hesitant to initiate such investigation due to many economic, logistical, regulatory, and legal considerations.

Establishing a research agenda: Research to inform policy and practice in the NCCP

Kenya (2023-2027 National Cancer Control Strategy) Pillar 5: Strategic Information, Registration, Surveillance and Research

Strategic objective 5.3: Strengthen cancer research in Kenya

Strategy 1: Support and adequately resource a comprehensive cancer research agenda to inform policy

Activities

1. Revise the national cancer research agenda based on key priorities areas for cancer research in Kenya based on disease burden, patterns and trends.
2. Implement the national cancer research agenda.
3. Create a national cancer research repository for use by all stakeholders.
4. Create a knowledge translation/management mechanism for cancer research.
5. Create a data-sharing framework to promote cancer research and surveillance using data available at the established population-based cancer registries.

Strategy 2: Enhance adoption of cancer research into clinical and policy practice

Activities

1. Establish a cancer research centre of excellence in the country and optimise collaborations and synergy.
2. Make cancer research information available at the Kenya Health Research Observatory (KHRO).
3. Conduct cancer economic investment cases on priority cancer control topics in Kenya.
4. Develop and disseminate policy and evidence briefs from priority cancer research topics.
5. Formulate mechanisms for incorporating research findings into cancer protocols and policies.
6. Build research capacity for health care workers and other stakeholders at both national and sub-national level.
7. Expand community engagement in cancer research initiatives.

Source: https://www.iccp-portal.org/system/files/plans/NATIONAL%20CANCER%20CONTROL%20STRATEGY%202023-2027_compressed.pdf

Building research capacity: Research funding plan highlighted in the NCCP

Nigeria (2018-2022 National Cancer Control Plan) Goal 6: To conduct and support integrated programs that provides high quality cancer data for dissemination, research and planning

<p>3. To secure funding and technical support for 80% of (of education, training and) research activities on prevention, early detection and management of cancer</p>	<p>3.1 Establish a fund for cancer research pooled from: academia (TETFUND, Government Ministries (through a budget line created for research) , companies that contributes to environmental pollution and other risk factors of cancer e.g. tobacco, telecoms and oil companies and International partner Public private partnership: telecoms, Oil & Gas</p>	<p>All sources of funds for cancer research identified.</p> <p>0.5% of profit of companies identified goes into research fund</p> <p>Budget line for cancer research developed in the ministries (Health, Agric., Women Affairs etc.)</p>
	<p>3.2 Develop capacity for competitive grant proposal development for cancer research</p>	<p>Number of trainings and personnel trained on grant proposal development for cancer research</p>

Building research capacity: Ensuring M&E of the NCCP

Malawi (2019-2029 National Cancer Control Strategic Plan) Thematic Area 6: Cancer Control Research, Monitoring and Evaluation

Objective 6.4: To improve monitoring and evaluation of cancer program Strategies

Strategies

1. Adapt standard IARC data collection tools and quality standards and ensure ICD-compliance
2. Develop detailed monitoring and evaluation plan.
3. Develop cancer reporting database
4. Develop cancer indicators and modernize cancer data collection methods.
5. Design and develop legislation on mandatory reporting of cancer (notifiable disease)
6. Produce annual progress reports on implementation of the strategy.

Source: <https://www.iccp-portal.org/system/files/plans/MALAWI%20NATIONAL%20CANCER%20CONTROL%20STRATEGIC%20PLAN-%202019-2029.pdf>

ICCP ECHO 2022-23 Cohort – NCCP research priorities

- From the 2018 Global Review of NCCPs: Cancer research was mentioned in 86 (56%) of 153 countries, but only nine (6%) had specific national strategies and priorities¹
- 3 of 6 ICCP ECHO countries have research pillars in the NCCP. Table shows the main themes.

Research Focus Area	Eswatini	Sri Lanka	Uganda
Priority setting	X	X	X
Capacity strengthening	X	X	
Funding	X	X	
Collaboration building	X	X	X
Conducting and disseminating research		X	X

Closing/Recap

- Why include research in the NCCP
 - Understand the local burden of disease
 - Address contextually relevant needs across the cancer continuum
 - Measure cost, accessibility, and impact of cancer control measures
- Key research components to include in the NCCP
 - Establishing the research agenda
 - Building research capacity (including cancer surveillance)
 - Developing research collaborations/partnerships
 - Ensuring dissemination and implementation of findings



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