

imPACT

Integrated Missions of PACT



Programme of
Action for
Cancer
Therapy

PACT

Cancer Crisis in Low and Middle Income Countries

Each year, over five million people in low and middle income (LMI) countries die of cancer. If detected and treated early, many of these deaths could be prevented. Yet, the reality is that **70% of cancer cases in LMI countries are diagnosed too late for curative treatment to remain an option**. In many developing countries, early detection programmes for cancer remain largely unavailable or inaccessible, and resources for cancer control are limited.

While communicable diseases have long been a priority for LMI countries, the growing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as cancer, is exerting even greater pressure on overburdened health care systems. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the burden of disease from NCDs for developing and newly industrialized countries is expected to rise by more than 60% by 2020, compared to less than 10% in developed countries. The rising rates of cancer seen in LMI countries represent a troubling trend facing public health decision makers in the coming decades.

Addressing the Cancer Crisis: National Cancer Control Planning

To address LMI countries' health system challenges related to cancer control, the WHO has recommended that countries develop a **National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP)**. Devising and adopting an NCCP empowers a country to take a systematic and comprehensive approach to ensure best practices. This includes cancer control planning, cancer prevention, early detection, diagnosis and treatment, and palliative care. The implementation of an NCCP enables national authorities to plan investments in cancer control in line with country priorities and evidence based strategies, while taking resource constraints into account. This approach addresses cancer in a comprehensive and cost effective manner to ensure maximum impact for investments.

National Cancer Control Programmes

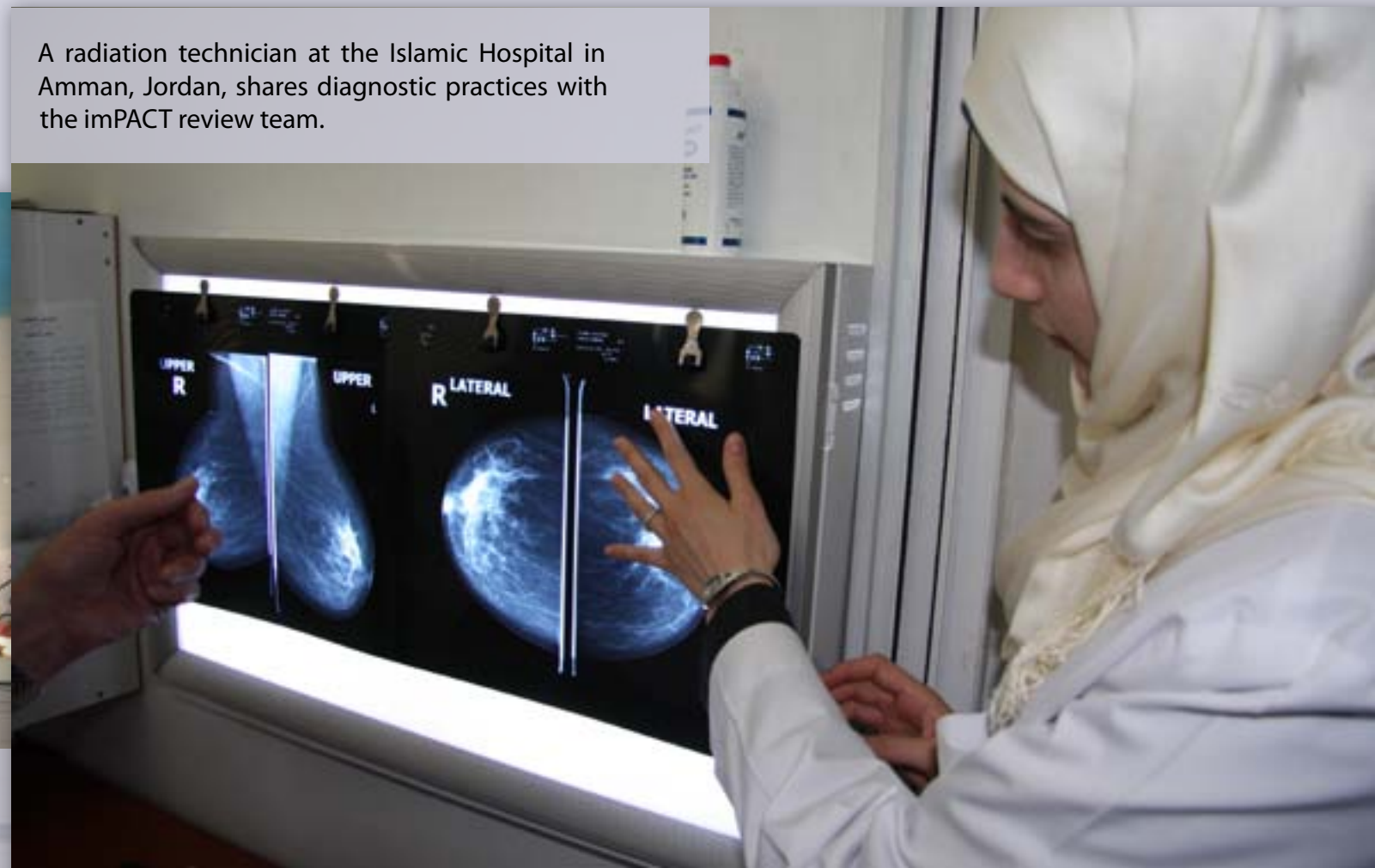
The WHO defines an NCCP as "a public health programme designed to reduce cancer incidence and mortality and improve quality of life of cancer patients, through the systematic and equitable implementation of evidence-based strategies for prevention, early detection, diagnosis, treatment, and palliation, making the best use of available resources."



imPACT Reviews

The IAEA, through its Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT), offers its Member States a service called the **imPACT (integrated mission of PACT) review**. The imPACT review provides an effective bottom-up approach to conducting a country cancer infrastructure needs assessment and situation analysis in any Member State. It is the first step in the IAEA's cancer strategy to assist developing Member States to address their cancer burden based on a comprehensive and long term planning approach.

A radiation technician at the Islamic Hospital in Amman, Jordan, shares diagnostic practices with the imPACT review team.



An imPACT review team assesses cancer control facilities at the National Cancer Hospital in Hanoi, Vietnam.

The imPACT Review Process

The imPACT review process lasts between 18 and 24 months from the initial request from the Ministry of Health to the issue of the final report and recommendations for action by the government, endorsement of the recommendations by the Ministry of Health and initiation of implementation through an NCCP. The commitment of the Member State is critical to ensure implementation of the imPACT review's recommendations.



An IAEA Member State may be eligible for an **imPACT review**, subject to the availability of resources from PACT Programme Office (PPO), when the following criteria are met:

- Cancer is recognized as a public health priority in the country and national health authorities are committed to address cancer control (documented in the IAEA Country Programme Framework and/or the WHO Country Cooperation Strategy);
- National health authorities have formally requested IAEA assistance on cancer control;
- The Member State is a recipient of the IAEA's Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme with active radiotherapy project(s) or has plans to establish a radiotherapy programme.

The main stages of the imPACT process are outlined below:

- 1** The imPACT process is initiated by an **official request** for assistance originating from the Ministry of Health of a Member State to the IAEA. This request should highlight the commitment of the national health authorities to fight cancer and nominate a Focal Point for the imPACT review.
- 2** The Member State carries out a self-assessment by completing the **WHO–IAEA NCCP Core Self-Assessment Tool**.
- 3** A **Country Cancer Profile (CCP)** is prepared by the PPO on the basis of research and desk based studies, taking into account previous assistance in radiation medicine and related radiation safety provided by the IAEA.
- 4** The **imPACT review team**, composed of a multidisciplinary team of experts with experience in developing countries, is assembled in consultation with WHO Regional Offices, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), PACT partners and internal IAEA stakeholders. This is a particularly strong feature of the imPACT review as the participation of a multidisciplinary team of experts allows the Member State's public health authorities to draw on a wide range of evidence based cancer control knowledge and experience.
- 5** The **imPACT mission** is implemented in close cooperation with national authorities, notably the National Liaison Office, the Ministry of Health, the WHO Country Office and all relevant stakeholders.
- 6** The **imPACT report** is compiled by the IAEA based on the inputs and recommendations provided by the imPACT review team in consultation with WHO Regional and Country Offices, IARC and relevant internal stakeholders.
- 7** The imPACT report is sent to the recipient Member State's Ministry of Health requesting comments on the report and the follow-up actions suggested therein.
- 8** Within six months following submission of the imPACT report, an **official response from the Ministry of Health** to the IAEA endorsing the recommendations and/or requesting additional support for follow-up action is expected.



An imPACT review team on mission in Khartoum, Sudan.

imPACT Review

The objectives of the imPACT review are to:

- ➔ Carry out a comprehensive assessment of the country's cancer control capacity in the areas of planning, information, prevention, early detection, diagnosis and treatment, palliative care, training and civil society activities.
- ➔ Carry out a capacity and needs assessment for the effective implementation of the country's radiation medicine programme, including all relevant regulatory and safety aspects, as a component of a comprehensive NCCP.
- ➔ Assist in the planning of the country's cancer related TC projects for future cycles.
- ➔ Explore suitable project proposals and multidisciplinary assistance packages, as well as potential sources of funding for cancer control interventions.

Areas of Assessment

The imPACT review focuses on the assessment of the following cancer related areas, with emphasis on those deemed high priority by the government:

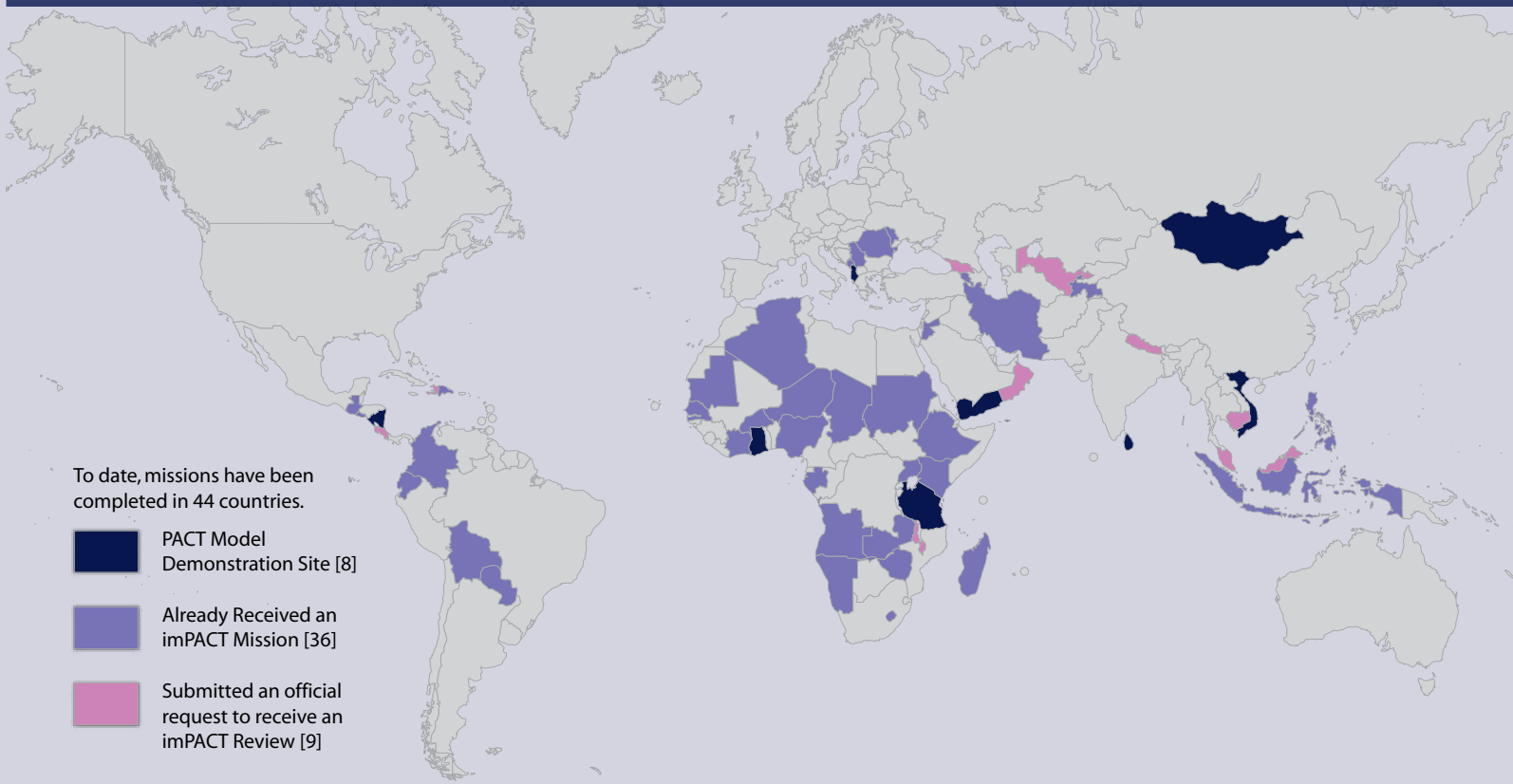
- ➔ Cancer control planning status according to WHO guidelines.
- ➔ Registration and surveillance: Data use in planning and decision making.
- ➔ Prevention: Major cancer risk factors in the country and actions to reduce them, advocacy and public education (relevant policy and legislation).
- ➔ Early detection: On-going interventions, referral system, access to treatment after detection.
- ➔ Diagnosis and treatment: National strategy, availability of cancer care services (including human resources, regulatory infrastructure, radiotherapy facilities, oncology medicines and specialized surgery), cancer survival and patient quality of life.
- ➔ Palliative care and patient support: Infrastructure and available options (including radiotherapy and opiates).
- ➔ Knowledge transfer and multidisciplinary education and training in cancer, including planning for human resources development at the national level.
- ➔ Civil society activities: Role of scientific societies and other NGOs.
- ➔ Actions in place to monitor and evaluate cancer control interventions.
- ➔ Resources available and resource mobilization efforts needed for various programme components.

"The PACT mission to Sri Lanka made certain recommendations for our country which we are trying to implement. This meeting has given us a lot of exposure to those cancer control systems that are operating very well, in addition to insights regarding what we lack and how we can improve our own available resources."

Dr Neelamani Paranagama
Director of Sri Lanka's National Cancer Control Programme
July 2009



imPACT Missions around the World



Expected Outcomes and Follow-up Activities

Following the endorsement of the imPACT report's recommendations, the Ministry of Health is expected to take ownership of the imPACT report and its contents. Recommendations can be utilized to develop appropriate strategies, action plans and potentially 'bankable' project proposals, for the expansion of national cancer capacity and infrastructure, which, in turn, can facilitate resource mobilization at the country level. More specifically, the implementation of imPACT recommendations is expected to lead to a phased planning and investment package for developing comprehensive cancer control services based on government priorities and the following outcomes:

- ➔ Establishment of a National Cancer Control Steering Committee and nomination of its members, involving all stakeholders. The Committee will be responsible for developing the NCCP.
- ➔ Development of an NCCP following WHO guidelines.
- ➔ Development of a 10-year Action Plan with ranking of prioritized activities, realistic goals, timeframes, milestones and estimated budget. The country's radiation medicine development plan should be an integral part of this Action Plan.
- ➔ Development of specific funding proposals, for incremental short, medium and long term assistance packages/projects to meet the country's specific needs in each component of cancer control. In addition, this process should enable the Member State to prepare better defined projects related to the IAEA's mandate in radiation medicine for support through the IAEA's TC programme.

The Partnership Approach

Considering the global implications connected to the cancer crisis and the humanitarian necessity for improved cancer control in the developing world, PACT works diligently to form a network of global partnerships that can combine their expertise to provide the best possible support to those populations most afflicted by cancer. PACT currently conducts cancer assessment missions with support from:

- The World Health Organization (WHO)
- The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)
- The International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research (INCTR)
- The Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)



PACT Programme Office
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Centre, PO Box 100
1400 Vienna, Austria
pact@iaea.org
cancer.iaea.org