

GLOBAL ACCESS TO PAIN RELIEF INITIATIVE (GAPRI)



A MEMBERSHIP ORGANISATION
FIGHTING CANCER TOGETHER



WHAT IS GAPRI?

The Global Access to Pain Relief Initiative (GAPRI) is a UICC programme addressing target 8 of the World Cancer Declaration – that by 2025, 'Effective pain control and distress management services will be universally available'.

GAPRI works to:

- **Raise the profile** of the urgent need to make pain relief medications and palliative care services globally available
- **Empower and support** governments to take the lead in expanding access to pain relief medications and palliative care services
- **Integrate** pain management and palliative care services into national cancer control planning and health system responses
- **Mainstream** access to pain relief medications and palliative care services in the global health, development and drug control agendas

1. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, World Drug Report 2014, p 30 available at http://www.unodc.org/documents/wdr2014/World_Drug_Report_2014_web.pdf.

2. World Palliative Care Alliance, World Health Organization, 'Global Atlas of Palliative Care at the End of Life', 2014, p 25; available at: http://www.who.int/nmh/Global_Atlas_of_Palliative_Care.pdf?ua=1.

3. World Health Organisation, Ensuring balance in national policies on controlled substances, Guidance for availability and accessibility of controlled medicines, (2011), p3; available at http://www.who.int/medicines/areas/quality_safety/GLs_Ens_Balance_NOCP_Col_EN_sanend.pdf.

WHY GAPRI IS SO IMPORTANT

In most of the world, people dying of cancer and other painful illnesses do not have access to basic pain relief medication and palliative care services. Low- and middle-income countries, which account for 83% of the global population, consume only 8% of the medical morphine consumed globally. High-income countries, accounting for only 17% of the global population, account for 92% of global medical morphine consumption.¹ It is estimated that 78% of adults in need of palliative care at the end of life live in low and middle-income countries.² The WHO estimates that each year 5.5 million terminal cancer patients suffer from moderate to severe pain that is not managed at all.³

While the scale of the problem is large, we know what needs to be done to address it. The common barriers to access are well-known and can be lifted. They include inadequate training of healthcare workers, misconceptions about pain and its treatment with morphine and other opioids, and overly restrictive laws and regulations.

KEY ACTIVITIES

Global Advocacy

At the global level, GAPRI works to ensure that access to pain relief and palliative care is prioritized within global political, policy and programme developments such as:

- The global noncommunicable disease agenda, including implementation of the UN Political Declaration on NCDs, the WHO Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2013-2020, and the positioning of NCDs in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda
- The activities of the World Health Organization (WHO), including implementation of the May 2014 World Health Assembly resolution 'Strengthening of palliative care as a component of comprehensive care throughout the life course'
- The activities of the Vienna-based international drug regulatory bodies including the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Narcotics Control Board
- Preparations for the 2016 UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on Drugs

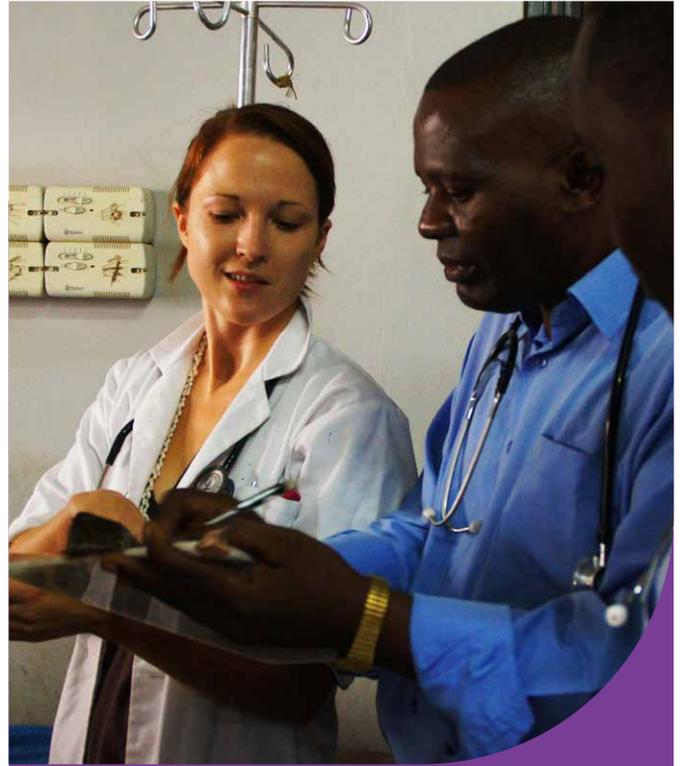
At the national level, GAPRI works closely with UICC members and key partners to ensure that access to pain relief and palliative care is considered a national health priority and that pain management and palliative care are integrated into national cancer control plans.

Joint WHO-UNODC-UICC global initiative

UICC is a partner in a new joint global initiative with the WHO and UNODC that aims to lead a coordinated worldwide response of states to improve the management, policies and procedures related to access to controlled drugs, particularly pain medication, for medical purposes. The essential elements of the programme are to:

- Build capacity at the global, State and local level to address the challenges of developing practices and policies that promote appropriate access to controlled drugs for medical purposes;
- Develop recommendations and standard practice for implementing national control systems allowing for access to controlled drugs for medical purposes;
- Initiate and give momentum to a health systems model of palliative care, ensuring access to controlled drugs for medical purposes and the provision of pain relief services in pilot countries.

Work has commenced in the first pilot country, Ghana, including a health system survey on perceived barriers and challenges, a stakeholder meeting and development of strategic plans, and training on standardizing approaches to implementing palliative care interventions.



FUNDING PRIORITIES

To secure ongoing funding for the joint WHO-UNODC-UICC global initiative including:

- Continued work in Ghana
- Commencement of work in additional pilot countries
- A core team with representation in each of the partner organisations to implement the program

This initiative responds to the following World Cancer Declaration targets:



8

UNIVERSAL AVAILABILITY OF PAIN CONTROL AND DISTRESS MANAGEMENT



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