



WORLD CANCER DAY 4 FEB

GOVERNMENTS IN ACTION



WORLD CANCER DAY: A POWERFUL PLATFORM FOR CHANGE

Every 4 February, World Cancer Day gathers the world to raise our collective voice against cancer.

The aim of World Cancer Day is to achieve equity in cancer care, to ensure cancer remains a national and global priority, and to ultimately save lives. This annual date offers a powerful platform to achieve this through raising awareness and education, engaging governments, and inspiring individuals to take action.

It is also an opportunity to provoke deeper dialogue and to shine a spotlight on the most critical issues in cancer. This year, nearly half a million social media mentions and over 14,000 press mentions in 145+ countries helped to amplify the World Cancer Day message everywhere - and saw the official hashtag #WorldCancerDay trend globally around the world. Together, this helped ensure the day was firmly front and centre in the minds of individuals and policy-makers, worldwide.



GOVERNMENTS CAN CREATE A BRIGHTER AND HEALTHIER FUTURE

Governments across the world have the power to make a positive difference in the lives and health of their people. And, in the last year of the 'We can. I can.' campaign, we hoped to inspire an urgent response from governments and their leaders in addressing the national and global cancer burden.

This report spotlights some of the government responses and actions which took place this past World Cancer Day.

We hope the following report will serve as inspiration for more governments and civil society organisations around the world to join together in creating a significant shift in reducing the 8.8 million deaths from cancer every year.



GOVERNMENTS LEAD THE WAY

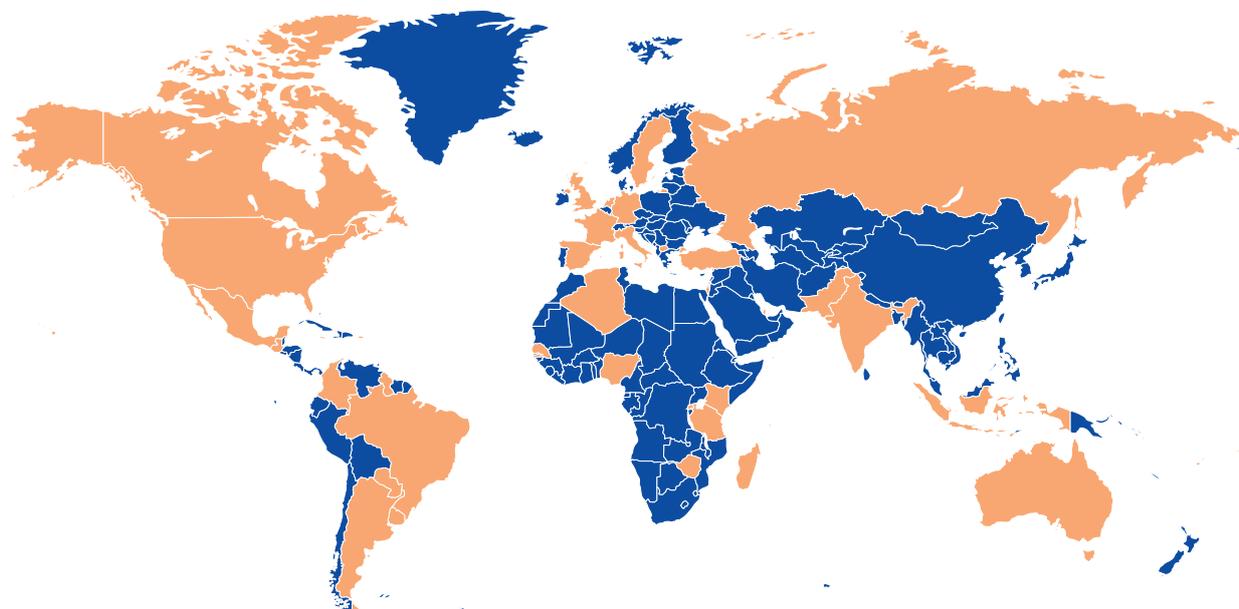


No less than 47 national governments chose to support World Cancer Day in 2018.

Around the world, we witnessed a groundswell of support by leaders who chose to use their platform to shine a greater spotlight on cancer, to take action and make change happen.



PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS



Participating governments include Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Colombia, France, Fiji, Germany, Guatemala, Guyana, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Italy, Israel, Jamaica, Kenya, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestinian Territories, Paraguay, Qatar, Russia, Rwanda, Samoa, Senegal, Seychelles, Sint Maarten, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Tanzania, The Netherlands, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Zimbabwe

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN CANCER LEAGUES

The Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL) brings together a group of 36 Members of European Parliament who are dedicated to advocating for collaboration and action in improving cancer control and prevention at an EU level. Named the Members of European Parliament Against Cancer (MAC), the collective group used their spheres of networks and influence to bring regional attention to World Cancer Day.

To mark the occasion, the Parliament Magazine published a special World Cancer Day edition, which was distributed to decision-makers locally, nationally and European-wide. Contributing articles included a co-authored piece by Mr Alojze Peterle, President of MAC and Ms Lieve Wierinck, a MAC member and cancer survivor, as well as a focused report on improving patient outcomes and efficiency in cancer care. Messages and statements of commitment, hope and support also radiated from the group of MAC members which were amplified across social media.

GOVERNMENTS IN ACTION

Algeria

Health Minister announces four new cancer centres

On World Cancer Day, Minister of Health, Mokhtar Hasbellaoui announced that four new cancer centres will be operational in 2018, bringing the total number of cancer centres to 17 nation-wide. In his announcement, the Minister reiterated the government's commitment to the fight against cancer, highlighting the strides made in building the technical capacity of hospital staff, increasing the availability of medicine, improving access to treatment and the establishment of a national network of cancer registries. This progress signals a strong political commitment to ensuring cancer remains a national priority.

Brunei Darussalam

Free cancer screenings in honour of World Cancer Day

To mark World Cancer Day, the Government of Brunei Darussalam released an official Ministerial message which threw full government support behind the day. The message also outlined the government's commitment to making cancer services (screening, prevention and treatment) more available, and included an announcement of a new initiative in partnership with Pantai Jerudong Specialist Centre and Maxillofacial, Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Centre. The initiative offers three months of free cancer screenings for mouth, neck and skin of the head and neck at a number of district hospitals from February to April.

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“Today, the 4 February marks World Cancer Day and Brunei Darussalam together with other countries around the world, once again, will continue to raise awareness and take action to prevent and mitigate the effects of cancer. Many of us have been personally affected or know someone with cancer. The Ministry of Health will not be able to fight this disease alone, it is only through collaborative and synergistic efforts or whole-of-nation approach that We Can together eventually achieve our health targets and national Vision 2035 of high quality of life for our people.”

Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Dr Haji Md Isham Bin Haji Jaafar
Minister of Health, Government of Brunei Darussalam

Madagascar

Ministry organises solidarity march for World Cancer Day

The Ministry of Health hosted a series of activities to raise public awareness about the importance of cancer prevention and early detection. Events included free health screenings, a tai chi demonstration, as well as a solidarity march from the National Library to the hospital, intended as a signal to the world of Madagascar's commitment to reducing the national cancer burden. A number of press and media were also present to cover the events, including speeches made by representatives from the Ministry and the World Health Organization.

Nigeria

Minister highlights progress and commitments

As part of the World Cancer Day message delivered by Federal Minister of Health Professor Isaac Adewole spoke of the many current initiatives aimed at raising awareness of cancer in the country. These included developing jingles to raise cancer awareness in five Nigerian languages which are broadcasted on radio and social media. Through a partnership with the Union of Road Transport Workers, the jingles can also be heard on 1,000 long distance buses criss-crossing the country. The Minister also reiterated the government's commitment to implement a national screening programme for breast, cervical and prostate cancer in 2018 and to bridge the funding gaps through the development of public private partnerships.

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“World Cancer Day is an opportunity to raise awareness and consider what actions we can all take to tackle this disease. Australia has very good cancer survival rates but of course we can and must do better – and we're continuing to strive to do this. And while medical research, better screening, diagnosis and treatment are vital in the fight against cancer, it's important to remember that we as individuals can help ourselves to prevent this disease. That's why the theme for World Cancer Day this year is “We can. I can.””

Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health, Government of Australia

Malta

The President of Malta calls for collaboration and knowledge sharing across the region

As part of the World Cancer Day programme of activities, President of Malta, Her Excellency, Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, made the opening speech for the national World Cancer Day 2018 Conference. In her opening address, President Coleiro Preca highlighted the differences in paediatric patient outcomes across the region, urging a response for greater cooperation, knowledge sharing and equity in access to care across Europe and beyond. The President also took the opportunity to recognise the work of a number of national organisations dedicated to improving cancer control. The line-up of conference speakers included Deputy Prime Minister and Federal Health Minister, Dr Chris Fearnle, as well as experts from Malta, Italy and the United Kingdom who addressed the main theme of the day: tackling the impact of cancer on children. The National Cancer Platform Association additionally organised a number of public activities in the lead up to World Cancer Day, with President Coleiro Preca in attendance.



Mauritius

Year-long programme to mark World Cancer Day

Marking World Cancer Day, Minister of Health and Quality of Life, Dr Anwar Husnood, announced a year-long programme of World Cancer Day activities. Speaking at a local youth centre, Minister Husnood urged for greater awareness of risk factors, and highlighted the importance of early detection. The Minister also pointed to the government's efforts and progress, including the construction of a new cancer hospital and a programme of free cancer diagnosis and tests. The series of activities to take place during the year include screening and counselling programmes on breast and cervical cancer, exhibitions on health-related activities, talks and campaigns on cancer and its preventive measures.

Pakistan

Establishing a library for cancer patients

On the eve of World Cancer Day, Adviser to the Prime Minister on National History and Literary Heritage Division, Irfan Siddiqui took the opportunity to announce plans for a library for cancer patients at the NORI Hospital, with the aim of also providing books for hospital visitors to encourage them to learn more about cancer. The announcement was made during NORI Hospital's World Cancer Day commemorations with the Minister as the chief guest.

Seychelles

Cancer research findings presented

The Ministry of Health organised several activities across the World Cancer Day weekend. A seminar with presentations on cancer research findings were organised by the Ministry over an afternoon. Screenings were also offered to the general public and church services across the country were dedicated to cancer patients, survivors and their families.

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“We are urging all Seychellois who have risk factor to be tested regularly as early detection dramatically improves outcomes. On this day I ask you to take this opportunity to spread the word and raise the profile of cancer in people's minds. We can all make a difference. WE CAN! I CAN!”

Jean Paul Adam
Minister for Health and Social Affairs, Government of Seychelles

Sweden

Sweden presents plans for future cancer care for the country

At a full day meeting in Stockholm - hosted by the Swedish Network against Cancer - parliamentarians, politicians, healthcare and patient representatives came together for World Cancer Day. Opened by the Minister of Education and Research and moderated by the former Minister of Health and Social Affairs, discussions were wide-ranging and include: current cancer management and treatment, research, access to care, diagnostic methods at primary care centres, rehabilitation and progress needed. The Minister of Health and Social Affairs also took the opportunity to present plans on the future cancer care for the nation.

Tanzania

Government set to launch National Cancer Treatment Guidelines

A day ahead of World Cancer Day, Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Minister Umy Mwalimu, shared plans to accelerate the nation's progress in improving cancer treatment and services. These included a plan to launch the National Cancer Treatment Guidelines in the following month, which are expected to focus on strengthening prevention services, screening and treatment. In tandem, the government announced that it will be embarking on collecting population-based data to provide a more accurate understanding of the cancer burden on the nation.

Turks & Caicos Islands

Ministry hosts first annual World Cancer Day walk

The Turks & Caicos Islands' Ministry of Health organised the first ever World Cancer Day walk for the Islands. Taking place on the eve of World Cancer Day, the walk aimed to highlight the importance of physical activity in reducing cancer risk. Open to the whole community, the walk commenced early in the morning from the Ministry of Health office followed by a breakfast, which served to demonstrate the many ways to eat nutritiously and economically. Information and health screening booths also featured during the morning event.

Rwanda

Car free day on World Cancer Day

Health Minister, Dr Diane Gashumba joined in a celebration of World Cancer Day with a car-free day that included mass sport activities and free screenings. Leaders, families and communities joined in the activities which concluded with an announcement by Dr Gashumba that the Government would be soon offering free screenings and treatment for Hepatitis C.

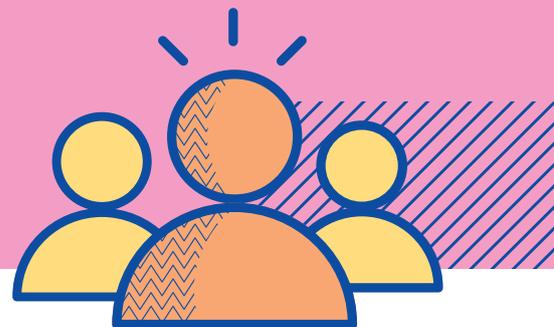


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“Today is World Cancer Day. 35 Singaporeans are diagnosed with cancer every day. Many have been, and many more are currently on the cancer journey. No one should undertake such a journey alone. Patients need help and support from family, friends, and society.”

Prime Minister Lee Hsieng Loong
Singapore

UICC MEMBERS AND GOVERNMENTS JOIN FORCES



Bahrain Cancer Society

Organised by the Bahrain Cancer Society and actively supported by the Ministry of Works, Municipal Affairs & Urban planning and the Ministry of Health, the Gulf Campaign for Cancer Awareness was held for the third year in a row in recognition of World Cancer Day. The campaign included a Walk-A-Thon, educational events, live entertainment and a Zumba session, drawing hundreds of participants from Ministries, schools, universities, businesses and the general public. In addition to raising awareness around reducing cancer risks, the events also helped to raise funds to support cancer patients and to purchase new equipment for the Salmaniya Medical Complex and other health centres around the country.

BCI Ghana

Breast Care International in collaboration with Peace And Love Hospital and Kumasi Technical University brought together government representatives and cancer experts including the Hon. Simon Osei Mensah (Regional Minister), Hon. Elizabeth Agyemang (Deputy Regional Minister), Hon. Osei Assibey Antwi (Mayor of Kumasi), Nana Ampofo Kyei Baffour (Asemhene), Nana Kokofuhemaa, Queenmothers, and the Vice Chancellor of Kumasi Technical University, in a dedicated World Cancer Day event to discuss progress and steps needed to help reduce cancer deaths by 25% by 2025.

Spanish Association Against Cancer

Coinciding with World Cancer Day, the Spanish Association Against Cancer (AECC) hosted the VII Forum Against Cancer in Madrid. Chaired by Her Majesty the Queen of Spain, the high-level meeting brought together the Minister of Health, high national and regional authorities of Health and Social Services as well as the national press. During the Forum, findings from the AECC study *The economic impact of cancer on families in Spain* were presented, which highlighted concern for the 25,000 individuals living with cancer at risk of social exclusion and facing levels of extreme economic vulnerability.

AECC's president Ignacio Muñoz used the opportunity to deliver a direct request to the Government to "create a Comprehensive Protection Plan for Families with Cancer with specific measures aimed at avoiding this situation of vulnerability" and reiterated AECC's commitment to work with the public administrations towards this goal.

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"The campaign theme for World Cancer Day is "We can. I can" and highlights the fact that we can all play our part in reducing the burden of cancer. The day has a particular focus on prevention and survivorship, which is reflected in our own National Cancer Strategy, which was published last year. We can all take small steps to reduce our risk of developing cancer, like the simple changes that the Healthy Ireland campaign is encouraging us all to make."

Simon Harris
Minister for Health, Ireland

Uganda Cancer Society and Uganda Cancer Institute

The morning of World Cancer Day commenced with a march-past from the Uganda Cancer Institute (UCI) headquarters to Parliament, with the Speaker of Parliament as Chief Walker and Guest of Honour. The event attracted delegates and members of the public, who were led by the Uganda police force towards Parliament where the World Cancer Day commemoration ceremony would be held.

On the same day, the Uganda Cancer Society (UCS) in partnership with Uganda Corporate League organised a seven-a-side football tournament between Parliament, UCI and the private sector teams to help raise awareness of cancer and strengthen growing partnership with policy makers and the private sector.

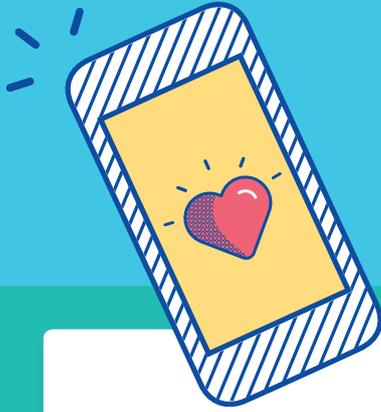
The World Cancer Day program in Uganda continued until the end of February, which concluded with the successful launch of the National Cancer Symposium by the Prime Minister of Uganda, along with the participation of the Minister of Health, representatives of the Minister of Finance and the World Health Organization, as well as the US Deputy Chief of mission - Uganda.



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"We are proud to join people across the world in commemoration of the World Cancer Day that takes place every 4th February to raise public awareness of cancer, its dangers and preventing the rising number of deaths. This year, as a country, we need to focus on creating cancer awareness amongst family, friends and our community. There is a lot that needs to be done so that we can combat this crisis and we need all stakeholders to get fully involved."

Hon. Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng
Minister of Health, Government of Uganda



HHS.gov @HHSGov · Feb 4
Each year, more than 8 million people die from cancer worldwide. But more than one third of those deaths are preventable, and if detected early enough, many cancers are curable. bit.ly/2z5kHSI #WorldCancerDay

Min. Pettipas Taylor @CDNMinHealth · 23h
Most of us have seen or experienced the effects of cancer. Today, I encourage you to reduce your risk, to support those living with the disease, & to thank caregivers, health care providers, & researchers working to develop new treatments. #WorldCancerDay ow.ly/WBA30iaLY6

“Indeed, close to 1 in 2 Canadians is expected to be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime...And, unfortunately, cancer remains the leading cause of death in Canada. This year’s World Cancer Day theme, “We can. I can.” inspires us to take action to reduce cancer in Canada and around the world.”

**The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor
Minister of Health,
Government of Canada**

Ministerio de Salud @MinSaludGuate · Feb 4
Esta actividad se consistió en un concurso de Murales de Papel #ContraElCáncer, mismo que se desarrolló en el marco del Día Internacional de la Lucha contra el Cáncer, el cual se conmemora cada 4 de febrero. @cardiosoto @CanaldeGobierno @TGWdigital @DiarioCA @AGN_noticias

BMG @BMG_Bund · Feb 4
4 Mio Menschen leben in Deutschland mit Krebs. Wie wir die Krebsbekämpfung vorantreiben bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/themen/praev... #Weltkrebstag #WorldCancerDay

MinSalud @MinSaludCol · 55m
“Como ministro y como sobreviviente del cáncer, estaré — hoy desde aquí, mañana desde otros ámbitos — luchando por la equidad y la dignidad de todos”. @gagaviuu, con motivo del #DíaMundialContraElCáncer

Gouvernement @gouvernementFR · Feb 4
Saviez-vous qu’au moins 40% des cancers sont liés à des comportements que vous pouvez modifier ?
Tous les conseils pour agir au quotidien e-cancer.fr/Access-thematique...
#Journeemondialecontrelacancer #NousPouvonsLePeux
@Institut_cancer @MinSoliSante @agnesbuzyn @santeprevention

وزارة الصحة العامة @MOPHqatar · 30m
#WeCanCan create healthy schools to encourage children & adolescents adopting #HealthyLifestyles: bit.ly/WCD2018 #WorldCancerDay

Ministerio de Salud @msalnacior · Feb 4
#DíaMundialContraElCáncer: Alrededor del 40% de todos los cánceres pueden prevenirse adoptando hábitos saludables. Más información en: facebook.com/msalnacior/photo...

Government of Russia @GovernmentRF · Feb 4

MinVWS @MinVWS · Feb 4
Minister Bruno Bruins: “Te vaak nog verliezen we mensen aan deze vreselijke ziekte. Ondanks verbetering blijft meer onderzoek kalfhard nodig!” #wereldkankerdag

Ministerio de Salud @msaludpy · Feb 4
Hoy se evoca la lucha contra el #cáncer bit.ly/2ZDXgLV

Ministry of Health @MoHFW_INDIA · Feb 4
On #WorldCancerDay2018, spread awareness on #cancer. #SwasthaBharat #HealthForAll @JPNadda @AshwinIKChouhey @AnupriyaSPatel

Israel @Israel · 2h
Israel is committed to continuing research and developing solutions to provide hope for #cancer patients around the world. Here are five Israeli breakthroughs in early-detection and treatment of cancer:

Lee Hsien Loong @leehsienloong
Tdy is World Cancer Day. Walk the journey w/ cancer patients & survivors at @SGCancerSociety's Relay for Life on 10 - 11 Mar. - LHL bit.ly/2FJW67P

A MILLION THANKS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report highlights only a handful of the many different actions from governments this World Cancer Day. On behalf of the international cancer community, we thank all the ministers, politicians and policy-makers who showed leadership and used their influence and voice to support progress towards a cancer-free world.

We also acknowledge the efforts of UICC members and civil society organisations who work alongside their governments - not only on this day but every day - to help create a brighter and healthier future for their nation.

**WORLD
CANCER
DAY 4 FEB**



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For more information on World Cancer Day, please visit worldcancerday.org or contact us at info@worldcancerday.org

World Cancer Day is an initiative of the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC).

Union for International Cancer Control

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