

# GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR CANCER REGISTRY DEVELOPMENT (GICR)



A MEMBERSHIP ORGANISATION  
FIGHTING CANCER TOGETHER

## ABOUT GICR

The Global Initiative for Cancer Registry Development (GICR) in low- and middle-income countries is a multi-partner response to the worldwide disparity in the availability of reliable cancer information. GICR is led by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) with support from the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) and other major national, regional and international organisations.<sup>1</sup>

### THE INITIATIVE IS DESIGNED TO:

- **Empower** countries to produce high-quality information on the burden of cancer
- **Improve** the breadth and quality of local data through a population-based approach
- **Support** health information systems by encouraging routine record keeping
- **Enable** evidence-based planning of prevention, early detection, diagnosis, treatment and care of cancer

## WHY GICR IS SO IMPORTANT

Cancer is one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality worldwide, with an estimated 12.7 million new cases and 7.6 million deaths annually (Globocan, 2008). The developing world is bearing over half of this burden, but is the least equipped to cope with the situation. Having data to help us understand the burden is the first essential step for effective cancer control planning.

High-quality incidence and mortality data inform governments so that effective policies for cancer control can be developed, implemented and evaluated. Guided by reliable data, this results in the right interventions for saving lives and improving the conditions of cancer patients and their families. Currently, the existence of cancer registration is lacking in the developing world with large disparities in the percentage of population covered by population-based cancer registries (PBCR) between high-income and low- and middle-income countries.

## % OF POPULATION COVERED BY CANCER REGISTRIES IN CI5 VOL IX



SOURCE: IARC  
IARC Cancer Incidence in Five Continents, (CI5) vol IX (2007)

1. American Cancer Society, African Organisation for Research & Training in Cancer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, European Network of Cancer Registries, International Association of Cancer Registries, International Atomic Energy Agency, International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research, North American Association of Central Cancer Registries, National Cancer Institute Centre of Global Health (US), Network of Latin American National Cancer Institutes, Pan American Health Organization, Tata Memorial Centre, World Health Organization. For a full list of partners please visit: <http://gicr.iarc.fr/index.php?>

## NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT

In September 2011, at the UN High-level Meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), United Nations Member States committed to the strengthening of health information systems through population-based cancer registries (PBCRs), to guide timely interventions for the entire population. GICR will use this momentum to advocate for focused action at country level, in alignment with the World Cancer Declaration targets. In November 2012 this was followed up with a concrete commitment by UN Member States with the inclusion of an indicator measuring cancer incidence, by type of cancer, per 100 000 population in the new Global Monitoring Framework for NCDs, which will be used to assess progress made in the implementation of strategies and plans on NCDs.

## KEY ACTIVITIES OF GICR AND UICC'S ROLE

### REGIONAL AND NATIONAL SUPPORT

Through its network of regional hubs, GICR offers assistance to national authorities in planning and strengthening cancer registration, and to individual cancer registries through methodological, technical, educational support and collaborative research. In particular, UICC awards fellowships, and supports 'train the trainer' workshops to build vital capacity at the local level.

While the comprehensiveness of data collected by individual registries may vary according to local situations and capacity, established quality criteria should be followed. GICR assists registries in their process of improving their data collection and analysis methods, so that on the one hand their work might fully contribute to local cancer control, and on the other that they may compare their findings with peers at an international level.

In the first year of operation GICR established three regional hubs. The first hub, servicing Asia, was launched in November 2011 at the Tata Memorial Hospital (Mumbai, India). A hub for Western Asia, Eastern Mediterranean and North Africa based in Izmir, Turkey, and a network hub for Sub-Saharan Africa have become operational in 2012. Similar hubs for Latin America and the Caribbean are planned for 2013.

### ADVOCACY

Political awareness and financial support are crucial to the long-term sustainability of a PBCR. UICC-led advocacy at key global events such as the World Health Assembly aims to leverage the support for cancer registries articulated in the Political

Declaration on NCDs to mobilise efforts in the regions with the most need. Publications, events, factsheets and technical support materials will reinforce this message. Regional and national support is essential for impact in the longer term. UICC will work with GICR partners to facilitate a network of support for PBCRs at country level as well as providing a platform for improved dialogue between registries, encouraging them to become better advocates themselves. UICC member organisations will be encouraged to become involved at all levels as advocates, mentors, twins and national supporters.

### SUSTAINABILITY

While the first step at country level is to establish the gold standard of a PBCR, the next is to maintain the standard. Dissemination of registry led research and data is considered a vital factor for recognition of a registry's value and thus its sustainability. Focused research projects with cancer registries coordinated by the hubs will generate new findings to help develop methodologies to support the creation and evaluation of cancer plans, engage local stakeholders but also provide UICC's advocacy effort with renewed energy and messaging.

### INNOVATION

Regional leadership will enable PBCRs to take advantage of innovative regional solutions through sharing best practices, links to regional research and programmatic activity. Early adoption of UICC standards for classification and staging of tumours (known as TNM) will be encouraged via a working group, as will exploration of new technologies and approaches to long-term funding models.

## GICR'S FUNDING PRIORITIES

GICR estimates a minimum investment of US\$5 million over five years to make a difference in a national and regional capacity to generate information for cancer control purposes. GICR's funding priorities in 2013 are to consolidate existing regional hubs and develop a new hub for the Latin America and Caribbean region.

*Supporting GICR means investing in evidence-based and cost-effective cancer prevention, treatment and care strategies.*  
For more information please visit: [http://gicr.iarc.fr/index.php?page\\_id=3&lang\\_id=1](http://gicr.iarc.fr/index.php?page_id=3&lang_id=1)



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