

GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR CANCER REGISTRY DEVELOPMENT



A MEMBERSHIP ORGANISATION
FIGHTING CANCER TOGETHER

ABOUT GICR

Global Initiative for Cancer Registry Development (GICR) is a multi-partner response to the disparity in robust cancer statistics across the globe, led by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).¹

THE INITIATIVE IS DESIGNED TO:

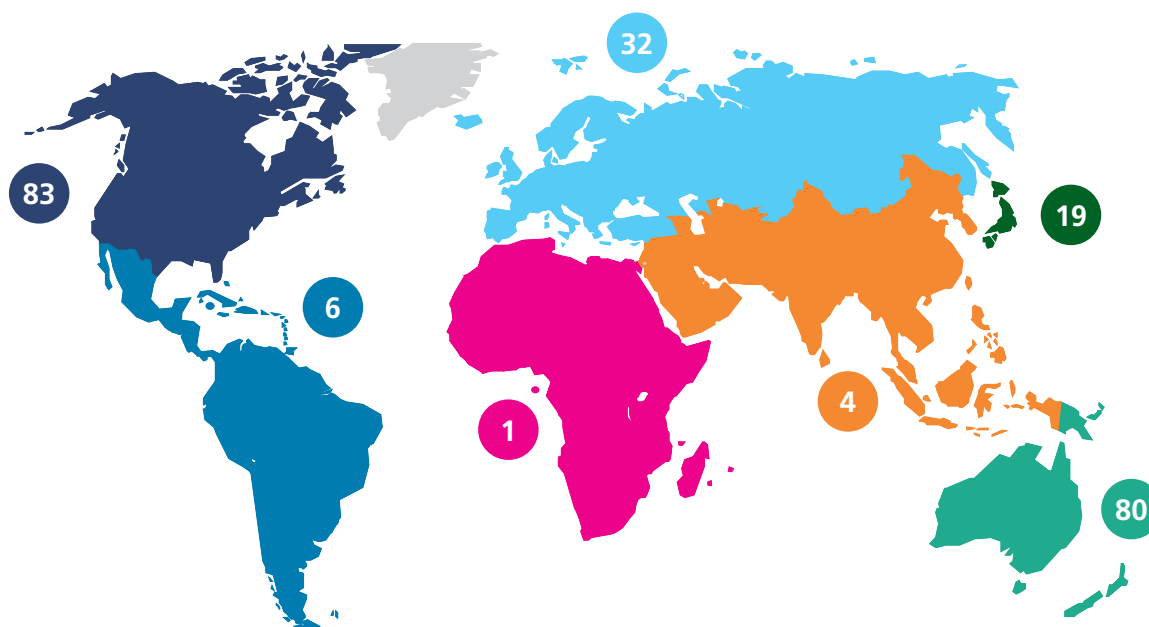
- **Empower** countries to produce reliable and high-quality information on the burden of cancer
- **Improve** the breadth and quality of local data through a population-based registry approach
- **Strengthen** health information systems
- **Facilitate** planning of prevention, early detection, diagnosis, 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. In partnership with a number of additional international organisations including: American Cancer Society, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US), Harvard Global Equity Initiative, International Association of Cancer Registries, International Atomic Energy Agency, International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research, National American Association of Central Cancer Registries, National Cancer Institute Centre of Global Health (US), Public Health Agency of Canada, Network of Latin American National Cancer Institutes, World Health Organization.

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 guarantee 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.

KEY ACTIVITIES OF GICR AND UICC'S ROLE

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL SUPPORT

GICR provides regional training, technical advice and research support to registry staff. UICC has awarded four fellowships for 'train the trainer' workshops. Regional training employs user-friendly software for low- and middle-income countries, and tailored training on establishing and maintaining a population-based cancer registry, and site visits to advance progress. The data collected by individual registries may vary according to local needs and capacity.

To facilitate this process, the primary objective of GICR is to establish 'hubs' – regional resource centres capable of providing local developmental support for population-based cancer registries throughout the region.

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 will become operational in 2012. A hub for Latin America is planned for 2013.

ADVOCACY

Political awareness and support is crucial to the long-term financial support 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 led by the hubs will generate new findings to stimulate discussion 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 2012 are to establish the regional hubs and build training support in the form of targeted fellowships and workshops.

Supporting GICR means supporting facts, figures and a future: investing in cancer information means investment in evidence-based and cost effective cancer prevention, treatment and care strategies.



For regular updates visit www.gicr.iarc.fr

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