

# ALGERIA'S CANCER PLAN

2015-2019

Strategic vision of a patient-centered fight against cancer

*Vision stratégique de lutte contre le cancer centrée sur le malade*

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**Roadmap to Cancer Control in Africa**

# Public health dimensions of cancer

- **Characteristics:**
  - Significant and continuing growth in number of cases
  - Diverse causes
  - Multiple forms of diagnosis, therapeutic and monitoring
  - **Imposes a particularly high and growing financial burden, and threatens to unbalance the financial architecture of the health system.**

# Extent of the disease in Algeria

- Based on the 14 regional cancer registries:
- 1990: incidence = 80/100 000
- 2010: incidence = 130/100 000
- 2014: new cases = 45000



## Seven forms of cancer account for 70% of all cancers

- **Prognosis can be improved by:**
  - **Prevention:** lung, cervical.
  - **Screening:** breast, colorectal.
  - **Early Detection:** colorectal, prostate, bladder, thyroid.

# Obstacles on the patient pathway

- **Dysfunctions** related to organizational problems and to lack of real cross-sectoral coordination, health information not imported to Cancer Register
- **Information deficit.** Insufficient information provided to patients both concerning access to health care system and also basic information (prevention, screening etc.)
- **Regional disparities** in resources and organization of care
- **Delayed diagnosis** due to non-existent cancer network:
  - Practitioner in initial consultation does not have the information to diagnose and refer the patient correctly
  - Several provinces do not have pathologists
  - No protocol for multidisciplinary management protocol by localization
  - Shortages in medicines result in the late initiation of treatment

# The Cancer Plan

## **Main objectives:**

**Reduce mortality and morbidity from cancer**

**Improve reduction of risk factors**

**Develop Control Strategy combining priority actions, intersectoral and interdisciplinary approaches**

**Promote training in all fields**

# Strategic areas of the cancer plan

- **8 strategic axes**

1. Reduce risk factors
2. Improve detection of certain cancers
3. Improve cancer diagnosis
4. Revitalize treatment → interdisciplinarity
5. Organize guidance, support and monitoring
6. Develop a cancer information and communication system
7. Strengthen training and research on cancer
8. Strengthen financing capabilities of cancer management

- **19 goals**

- **60 shares**

- **239 measures**

# Axis 1: Improve reduction in risk factors

- Fight against tobacco: **5 goals; 16 shares, 37 measures.**
  - **Goal 1: Reduce smoking**
  - **Goal 2: Increase protection against exposure to tobacco smoke**
  - **Goal 3: Create an environment favorable to reduction in demand for tobacco**
  - **Goal 4: Support smoking cessation.**
  - **Goal 5: Create systems to monitor smoking and its consequences.**

**Smoking is responsible for 70% of cancers of the trachea, bronchus and lung, 42% of cancers of the mouth and pharynx, 42% of esophageal cancers, 28% of bladder cancers and 22% of pancreatic cancers.**



## Axis 2: Improve detection of certain cancers

- Breast cancer screening: **1 goal; 3 shares, 19 measures.**
- **Action 1:** Establish a committee of experts to organize breast cancer screening measures → 12 steps
- **Action 2:** Strengthen the national cervical cancer prevention program → 4 measures
- **Action 3:** Improve professional practice concerning breast cancer and cervical cancer → 3 steps

**Earlier detection of Colorectal cancers can be achieved through better training of general practitioners, not screening**

**The PSA test is not effective for mass screening.**

**A Retinoblastoma screening program should be introduced**

# Axis 3: Improve diagnosis

- **4 goals; 6 shares, 29 measures.**
  - **Goal 1: Improve services offered by lab-path anatomy**
    - 3 actions, 14 measures:
      - Reorganize the lab ACP (1 lab / wilaya) connection.
      - Reference laboratory
      - Align ACP labs with universal norms
  - **Goal 2: Improve medical imaging services**
    - Identify and strengthen referral structures (public and private): 7 steps
  - **Goal 3: Strengthen the Nuclear Medicine Department: 4 steps**
    - Increase the number of nuclear medicine services
    - Acquire PET Scan facility
    - Strengthen radiopharmaceutical lab
  - **Goal 4: Strengthen Biological Services**
    - Standardize all biology services that concern biological research into cancer, including molecular biology

# Axis 4: Revitalize treatment

- **10 shares, 43 measures.**
- **Goal 1: Improve the care of patients**
  - **Action 1: Organize RCP, measures 7**
    - Formalized organization of the RCP
    - Coordination between public and private
    - Traceability in the patient's file
  - **Action 2: Improve cancer surgery services**
    - Standardize and optimize technical platforms in surgical services
    - Develop mastology and breast surgery services
    - Develop thoracic surgery services
    - Equip pilot services in neurosurgery
    - Develop radiosurgery
  - **Action 3: Improve medical oncology services**
    - Define the minimum of supplies required for a specific treatment
    - Strengthen resources
    - Strengthen personnel services
    - Special status for paramedics
    - Establish home hospitalization

# Axis 4: Revitalize treatment (cont.)

- **10 shares, 43 measures**
- **Action 4: Expand the support capabilities of pediatric oncology**
  - Create pediatric oncology services
  - Develop and validate therapeutic standards
  - Strengthen the social integration of sick children
- **Action 5: Promote oncology pharmacy**
  - Develop oncology pharmacy and cancer treatment recovery units
  - Define a profile for chemotherapy preparation
- **Action 6: Improve the management of hematological malignancies**
  - Provide a hematology service in each CAC
  - Promote autograft
  - Develop allograft in the center and regions
  - Identify children with hematologic malignancies hospitalized in pediatric services

## Axis 4: Revitalize treatment (cont.)

- **10 shares, 43 measures**
- **Action 7: Improve the performance of radiotherapy services**
- **Action 8: Shorten time to appointment in radiotherapy**
- **Action 9: Improve the quality and safety of care in radiotherapy**
- **Action 10: Promote palliative care**
  - **Creation of day hospitals**
  - **Care and home care**
  - **Availability of drugs (opiates)**

# Axis 5: Organize guidance, support and patient follow-up

- **4 actions, 22 measures**
- **Objective 1: Provide psychological support for patients and their families**
- Action 1: Revive teams providing cancer information, support and listening
- Action 2: Develop onco-psychology in all anti-cancer centers
- Action 3: Involve the community sector and civil society in providing support to patients and their families
- **Objective 2: Reduce barriers to accessing centers for diagnosis and treatment of cancer**
- Action 1: Establish lodging for patients and their carers during treatment in each wilaya

# Axis 6: Develop a cancer information and communication system

- **7 actions, 32 measures**
- **Objective 1: Improve epidemiological surveillance of cancers by setting up coordination of cancer registries**
- Action 1: Institutionalize and implement population-based Cancer Registries
- Action 2: Create a network of actors and national partners of the Cancer Registry
- Action 3: Put in place a system of health information on cancer. Improve medical certification of causes of death.
- **Objective 2: Improve information and communication about cancer**
- Action 1: Develop communication programs about risk factors
- Action 2: Raise awareness about the problem of cancer in the population
- Action 3: Keep health professionals up-to-date about medical and technological advances in the treatment of cancer

# Axis 7: Strengthen training and research on cancer

- **11 actions, 50 measures**
- Introduction to new jobs and translational research
- **Objective 1: Optimize the training of all actors in the chain of care in the field of oncology**
- Action 1: Consider specific training for the general practitioner
- Action 2: Establish additional training in oncology for Surgeons, Oncologists, Radiologists and Biologists (abilities or skills certificate)
- Action 3: Strengthen training of paramedics in the treatment of cancer
- Action 4: Strengthen the training of radiation oncologists, nuclear medicine physicians, radiologists and medical physicists.
- Action 5: Promote continuing medical education of all specialists in oncology, in each field, through internships to upgrade skills
- Action 7: Strengthen the training of support staff in the management of cancer.



# Axis 7: Strengthen training and research on cancer (cont.)

- **11 actions, 50 measures**
- Introduction to new jobs and translational research
- **Objective 2: Develop research in oncology**
- Action 1: Promote research in the field of oncology
- Action 2: Promote applied research
- Action 3: Promote research in biotechnology and genetics
- Action 4: Develop cooperation and national and international partnerships in the context of cancer research

## Axis 8: Strengthen the financing capabilities of cancer management

- **Goal 1:** Optimize and rationalize the financial resources available
  - Action 1: Optimize the use of special funds allocations
  - Action 2: Rationalize pharmaceutical expenditure
- **Goal 2:** Budget for programs of prevention, training and research
  - Action1: Improve communications and qualification of staff in charge of cancer
  - Budget for tobacco control programs
  - Budget for breast cancer screening programs
  - 2% of the operating budget to go to the continuous training of personnel.
  - 2% to research

# Budgeting the Cancer Plan

- To ensure the success of this plan, **substantial financing needs to be reserved for it**
- Annual budgets must show the planned workload and objectives for each health institution receiving funding.
- Project costing implementation by year sets the annual cost of the cancer plan at **50 billion dinars**
- Over five years, funding for the National Cancer Plan 2015-2019 would increase to **180 billion dinars**

# Funding

- In addition to the national budget and contributions from social security, the sector has a dedicated trust fund:
- The “Fight against Cancer Fund” to support spending on awareness programs, prevention, screening and treatment (income: DA 3 billion / year) created in 2012



# Evaluation and Monitoring

- Procedures, formulated by experts, will define the series of tasks to be carried out
- Implementation of these procedures must precede the implementation of actions and measures
- A national committee will be charged with overseeing the fight against cancer
- A timetable has been drawn up detailing the tasks to be carried out on a quarterly, six-monthly, or annual basis over the five years covered by the Cancer Plan.

# Conclusion

- Situational analysis shows that Algeria has a significant advantages in terms of infrastructure, equipment, human resources and even financial resources
- These strengths and resources are currently misused because of a lack of organization

**“The success of this plan is a challenge for us and a tough battle that we must win, because it will be the engine that will drive our entire health system in the direction of the changes to which we all aspire”**