



IAEA | PACT *in Africa*

PACT

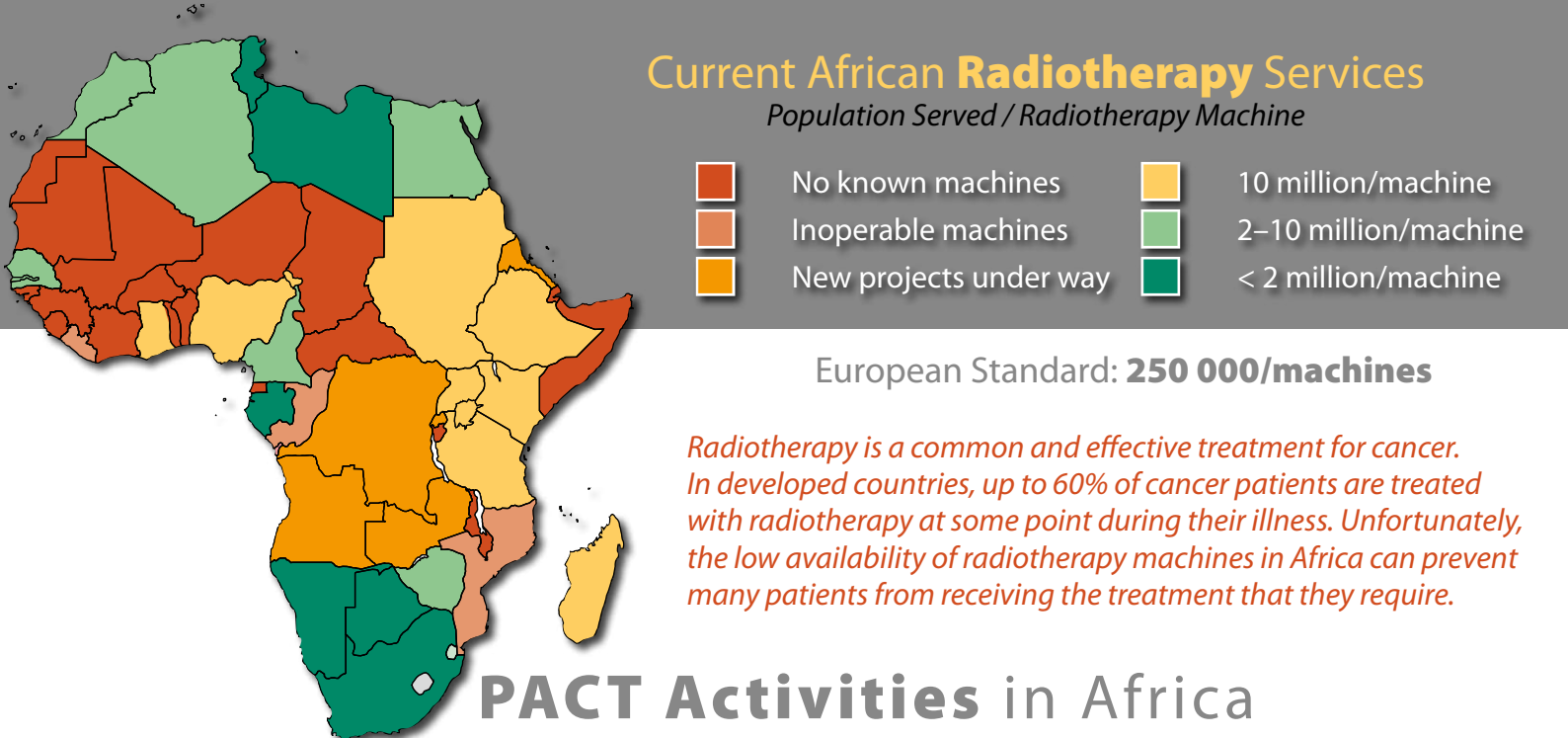
BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS
TO FIGHT THE CANCER
EPIDEMIC

Africa's Current **Cancer Crisis**

The cancer pandemic has become one of the world's greatest health concerns, not just in developed countries, but also in low and middle income countries. Africa will soon be one of the worst affected developing regions, because rates of cancer continue to rise and most people have no access to appropriate cancer care services. Complicating the crisis further, cancer in Africa has a unique profile that requires health interventions tailored specifically to the nature of the cancer burden on the continent.

80% of Africa's one billion inhabitants live without access to basic radiotherapy and related cancer services

Those living with cancer in Africa are adversely affected by the region's lack of adequate medical care. As a result, Africa is at great risk of being overwhelmed by the surge of new cancer patients — by 2030 this will exceed 1.6 million new cases annually. Africa also faces a cancer epidemic which contains aspects unique to the continent. For example, rates of cervical cancer, breast cancer and HIV associated Kaposi's sarcoma are so high that, for women, the lifetime risk of dying from cancer in Africa is almost double that in developed countries. These factors, as well as the rise in HIV associated cancers, changes in lifestyle, and the increasing age of the African population, due to successful campaigns against infectious diseases, mean that the region must be supported to establish comprehensive cancer control programmes that can respond to the increasing need for cancer prevention, early detection, diagnosis and treatment, and palliative care services.



The International Atomic Energy Agency established its Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT) in 2004. Fighting cancer in Africa, and throughout developing regions of the world, is one of PACT's top priorities, with Member States receiving support from the IAEA and the World Health Organization (WHO) and other PACT partners, on all aspects of cancer control. Aiding Africa's fight against cancer, PACT works across the continent in the following three programmatic areas:

1. Fighting Cancer with Understanding

To better understand the cancer issues facing Africa, and other developing regions of the world, PACT and its partners have developed innovative assessment tools to enable Member States to analyse their cancer burden. Through these assessments, called imPACT (integrated missions of PACT) reviews, the status of policies, plans and infrastructure related to all aspects of cancer are examined, in order to develop intervention packages that respond to each country's specific needs. imPACT reviews are carried out by experts from the IAEA, WHO and other international partners in Member States that request assistance and are committed to advancing their nation's fight against cancer. To date, over a dozen such missions have taken place in Africa, with 27 more imPACT reviews planned for African Member States requesting PACT support.

2. Fighting Cancer with Partnerships

To illustrate the benefits of collaboration on national cancer control programmes, PACT has established models for action in regions throughout the world, called PACT Model Demonstration Sites (PMDSs). Currently, two of PACT's eight PMDSs are located in Africa: Ghana and the United Republic of Tanzania. These PMDSs receive assistance in the design, implementation and evaluation of national cancer control plans and are given support for resource mobilization to help fund priority components of their cancer control programmes.

"PACT is one of the most positive re

— Dr. Franco Cavalli / Past President of the International Union

3. Fighting **Cancer** with **Training** for Health Professionals

Sub-Saharan Africa will face a shortage of some 3000 cancer health professionals over the next ten years. To address this gap, PACT and its partners have launched the VUCCnet Africa initiative to establish a Virtual University for Cancer Control (VUCC) in Africa and a supporting network of regional African cancer training and mentorship centres. The programme will increase the number and capacity of cancer professionals by providing low cost, on-line distance learning opportunities in participating countries combined with practical training and certification in the region.

Through VUCCnet, countries developing cancer control programmes can also work with regional Member States who have stronger programmes to share best practices and positive experiences. The VUCCnet is currently in its pilot phase in Ghana, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, and is supported by medical and educational centres in Egypt and South Africa, with technical inputs from the IAEA, WHO and other PACT partners. PACT has plans to mobilize resources to expand the programme throughout Africa.

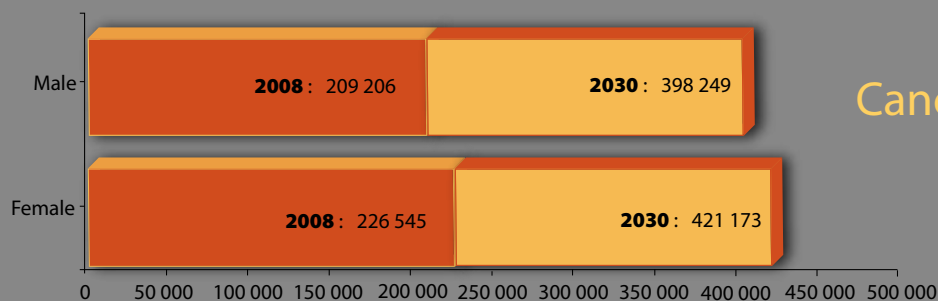
Addressing Africa's Needs

PACT's **Vision** for Africa

The IAEA and WHO have identified 37 African Member States that plan to build their cancer care and control programmes. To meet the needs of the 600 million people in these 37 countries lacking access to adequate cancer care, the IAEA must secure significant new resources over the next ten years. *These funds will give Member States the resources to:*

- FACILITATE** the establishment of 30 new cancer centres in 18 sub-Saharan African Member States where no cancer care facilities currently exist — **US \$303 million**
- UPGRADE** cancer care services and accessibility in 19 sub-Saharan African countries, where some services exist, by establishing 41 new centres and upgrading 29 existing centres — **US \$629 million**
- EXTEND** the VUCCnet to 12 additional Member States — **US \$15 million**
- ESTABLISH** national cancer control programmes in Member States that require them — **Funded by Member States with technical support provided by WHO and the IAEA**
- PROVIDE** imPACT missions and follow-up missions to all 37 African Member States, including 30 countries which have yet to have an assessment of their cancer burden — **US \$1.85 million**

cent developments toward dealing with the looming cancer crisis.”



Cancer Deaths will Double
in Africa by 2030
Number of Cancer Deaths

Globocan 2008 (IARC)

PACT Partnerships

The IAEA believes in the strength and effectiveness of a partnership approach. The global cancer crisis demands coordinated action. PACT is proud to have forged strong partnership with:

- WHO and its Regional and Country Offices, including a WHO–IAEA Joint Programme on Cancer Control
- International Agency for Research on Cancer
- International Union Against Cancer and International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research
- National cancer institutes in Brazil, Egypt, France, and the United States of America, and the Tata Memorial Centre (India)
- NGOs, including the American Cancer Society, Breast Health Global Initiative, PATH, National Foundation for Cancer Research and the Lance Armstrong Foundation
- Roche African Research Foundation and Best Medical International, Inc.



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