



imPACT Reviews

Expert assessment and recommendations to support evidence-based cancer control planning

The global cancer burden is on the rise, with the majority of the increase in cancer incidence and mortality in low- and middle- income countries. For many national authorities, formulating realistic, robust cancer control strategies while considering available resources is a challenge. To help meet this challenge, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and World Health Organization (WHO) offer the imPACT Review – a joint assessment of national capacities and health system readiness to plan and implement adequate cancer control strategies.

What is an imPACT Review?

An imPACT Review is a three-phase assessment of a country's cancer control capacities and needs. It provides governments and their partners with a baseline situation analysis and a set of recommendations to guide planning and investments in comprehensive cancer control. The imPACT Review is tailored to a country's specific cancer control context and priorities.

Through an imPACT Review, national authorities also gain an overview of the regulatory infrastructure for cancer medicines, the safety of radiation

sources, and the security of radioactive material in medical uses. Opportunities for partnerships, resource mobilization and programmatic support from the IAEA, IARC and WHO are also identified.

Guiding principles



Demand-driven: Conducted at the request of a Member State



Evidence-based: Guided by effective public health policies and international good practice



Participatory: Includes stakeholders in government, the medical field, academia, professional associations, civil society and the private sector, along with cancer care professionals

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Programme of
Action for
Cancer
Therapy
PACT



**World Health
Organization**

International Agency for Research on Cancer



**World Health
Organization**

How is an imPACT Review conducted?

An imPACT Review has three phases:

- 1 Preliminary analysis of the cancer control situation and related capacities and needs.** Phase 1 is conducted through a desk review and self-assessment by national stakeholders. It involves an appraisal of national strategy and policy documents on cancer, as well as a review of available data and information in all areas of cancer control: cancer registration, prevention, early detection, diagnosis and treatment, and palliative care.
- 2 In-country mission.** Phase 2 is conducted through a visit (virtual or in-person) by international cancer experts nominated by the IAEA, IARC, and WHO to validate and complement the preliminary analysis. It is also an opportunity to carry out additional data collection through interviews with key national stakeholders and the observation of conditions and practices in health care settings.
- 3 imPACT Review report.** Phase 3 is the finalization of a report containing a detailed expert analysis of information gathered, findings and conclusions on the Member State's strengths and challenges in cancer control. The report provides country-specific recommendations, which aim to support the government in prioritising and optimising cancer control interventions and investments.

How are imPACT Reviews financed?

imPACT Reviews are financed by contributions mobilized by the IAEA. IAEA, IARC and WHO contribute technical expertise under their respective mandates. There is no cost to a Member State for requesting or receiving an imPACT Review.

How can a country request an imPACT Review?

Requests for an imPACT review are made by Ministries of Health through official national channels by:

- Sending a formal letter to the IAEA Director General, in collaboration with the relevant IAEA National Liaison Officer, or
- Contacting the relevant WHO Country Representative or WHO Regional Office.

Member State experiences

The imPACT Review triggered the establishment of the Radiation Safety Authority (the first independent nuclear regulatory body in the Caribbean), and helped resource mobilization for cancer programmes.

Beverley Wright

Director of the Health Systems Support and Monitoring,
Ministry of Health and Wellness, Jamaica

The recommendations from the imPACT Review reprioritized cancer screening programmes based on the most recent evidence and informed the development of new clinical guidelines.

Dilyara Kaidarova

Director of the Kazakh Research Institute
of Oncology and Radiology, Kazakhstan

The imPACT Review was used as a platform for resource mobilization and as a planning tool to scale up cancer treatment services. It also informed technical cooperation with a wide range of partners.

Alicia Pomata

Director of the National Cancer Control Programme,
Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare, Paraguay

The imPACT Review strengthened the comprehensive approach to national cancer control and served as a monitoring and evaluation tool, providing a baseline and tracking progress in 2012 and in 2019.

Malick Anne

Director of the Division of Non-Communicable Diseases,
Ministry of Health and Social Action, Senegal

The imPACT Review has been the trigger to develop our new National Cancer Control Programme (2020–2024) and to initiate the strategic plan for childhood cancer and national radiotherapy plan.

Janaki Vidanapathirana

Former Director of the National Cancer Control Programme
Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka

The advisory services provided within the imPACT Review supported the strengthening of cancer control governance and resulted in the establishment of a National Technical working Group for Cancer Control.

Kennedy Lishimpi

Director and Coordinator Cancer Control Services,
Ministry of Health, Zambia