



Summary

Following a request from the Ministry of Health of Ukraine in July 2017 to the [Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy \(PACT\)](#), of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), an [imPACT review](#) was conducted from 14 to 18 May 2018, within the framework of the [WHO-IAEA Joint Programme on Cancer Control](#).

Its main objective is to support Ukraine's Ministry of Health in developing a national cancer control programme and to improve access to quality cancer care across the whole territory of Ukraine.

The imPACT Review report provided the Ministry of Health recommendations and evidence base for effective national cancer control programming. WHO provided technical recommendations to the Ministry of Health for their national cancer control strategy.

The imPACT Review expert team, nominated by the IAEA, the World Health Organization (WHO) and IARC, assessed Ukraine's cancer control capacity and needs in the areas of cancer control planning, cancer registration, prevention, early detection, diagnosis and treatment, and palliative care, as well as radiation safety of health care workers and patients, and the security of radioactive sources used for medical purposes. The experts visited public and private health care facilities, medical schools in the capital Kyiv and in Lviv, and met key cancer stakeholders, including representatives from civil society organizations.

Main findings

1. Ukraine has one of the highest cancer incidence and mortality rates in Eastern Europe, with cancer representing 15% of all deaths.
2. The three most frequent cancer sites for men are lung, colorectum and prostate, and for women are breast cancer, colorectum and corpus uteri.
3. Tobacco use accounts for 24% of all deaths from cancer.
4. Services are focused primarily on treatment with minimal prevention.
5. There is rapidly ageing workforce with the key staff shortages in rural areas and in primary care.
6. Access to diagnostic and treatment services in the public sector often requires out-of-pocket payments.
7. Access to opioids remains low compared to the needs.



Summary of recommendations

Cancer Control Planning

- Establish a national Steering Committee for cancer control to provide technical advice to the Ministry of Health (MoH), to reinforce the links and coordination between areas of cancer control and levels of the healthcare system and to draft the National Cancer Control Plan (NCCP) and its 5–10-year action plan.
- Officially designate 10–15 NCCP Steering Committee members, ensuring a broad representation of all areas of cancer control (prevention, early detection, diagnosis and treatment, palliative care and cancer information) and all stakeholders in cancer control, including academia, the private sector and civil society representatives.

Partners' Support and Resource Mobilization

- Use the development of the new NCCP to clearly define funding gaps and priority areas for resource mobilization, considering the potential for increased resource allocations through several sources: state, regional and municipal budgets, charitable domestic foundations and funds, international donors, and private sector donors.
- Identify opportunities to add priority interventions for cancer control to infectious disease programmes that currently receive priority attention and funding from international donors to enable improved efficiency, integration of services and expanded funding.

Cancer Registration

- Establish a legal framework for hospitals and regional statistical information centres to provide information on cancer deaths (including date and cause of death) and give the National Cancer Registry of Ukraine (NCRU) mandatory access to this information.

Cancer Prevention

- Introduce public education campaigns to improve awareness on the safety and utility of vaccination for disease prevention and to counter anti-vaccine campaigns.
- Introduce two doses of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination targeting 11-year-old girls in a phased scale up across the country.

Early Detection

- Replace the existing opportunistic mammography screening initiative with an early diagnosis programme based on breast cancer awareness, education of primary health care staff, clear guidelines for referral of symptomatic women, expert clinical breast examination of symptomatic women, diagnostic imaging for women with suspected lesions, and fine needle aspiration cytology (FNAC) of breast lesions.
- Develop and implement resource-appropriate national guidelines for diagnosis of women with suspected breast cancer and for treatment of women with confirmed breast cancer.

Diagnosis

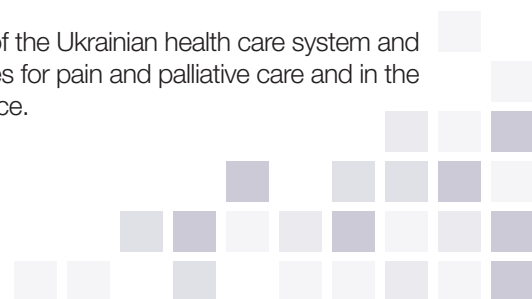
- Increase the number of PET/CT and SPECT/CT scanners in the country. Implement sentinel lymph node detection in all cancer care institutions where surgical treatment of breast cancer and melanoma is provided.

Treatment

- Prepare a national strategy for renewal of outdated radiotherapy equipment (brachytherapy and teletherapy) and radiotherapy expansion in the country with clearly defined steps (what, where and when) and application of clinical standards and regulations.

Palliative Care

- Integrate the provision of palliative care into the priority tasks of the Ukrainian health care system and include drugs for symptomatic treatment among the medicines for pain and palliative care and in the group of medicines covered through the public health insurance.



Follow-up actions taken by the Ministry of Health

- In October 2019 the First Deputy Minister of Health (MOH) became head of the interdepartmental multi-disciplinary working group on the development and improvement of prevention, diagnosis and treatment in the area of cancer. The group focuses on 6 priority cancer areas / workstreams: prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care.
- Ukrainian Parliament conducted hearings on the “Organization of cancer control in Ukraine: Problems and ways to resolve” (12 February 2020).
- MOH launched a cancer-related project, with WHO support, in early February 2020 whose aim is to develop a national strategy to 2030, including on childhood cancers (Ukraine participates in the WHO-led Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer).



imPACT review experts brief Her Excellency Minister of Health Ms Ulana Suprun (second from the right). (Photo: A Benedicto/IAEA)



imPACT review expert Mr Jovica Bosnjak (left) and Ukrainian health professionals discuss safety practices during the in-country mission. (Photo: A Benedicto/IAEA)

IAEA-WHO-IARC joint activities on cancer control

In March 2009, WHO and IAEA signed arrangements at the Director-General level to implement a Joint Programme on Cancer Control. The main purpose of this arrangement is to coordinate activities and resources to provide evidence-based and sustainable support to comprehensive cancer control programmes, particularly in LMI countries.

In response to a Government request, an imPACT Review is carried out as a comprehensive assessment of national cancer control capacities and needs. It is a partnership effort between the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Where relevant, other partners are involved, such as the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The IAEA Division of Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT) is responsible for coordinating the imPACT Reviews and for mobilizing the resources for their implementation.

Link to imPACT Review news and related resources:



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