Yangon, Myanmar

key cancer care gaps and priorities

**FACTS & FIGURES**

**Highlights of the main needs and challenges identified for the city of Yangon:**

This high level summary is based on the results of the full situational analysis report and the priorities set by the city.

**Contributions to the Needs Assessment:**

- **172** healthcare professionals from 20 institutions
- **260** patients

Yangon, the largest city in Myanmar and its cultural and educational centre, joined the City Cancer Challenge (C/Can) in October of 2017. Since then, supported by C/Can’s network of local, regional and global partners and experts, Yangon has embarked on a process to identify, design and develop sustainable cancer care solutions that respond to local needs.

As a first step, C/Can convened a City Executive Committee (CEC) bringing together representatives from the main public and private institutions providing cancer care in Yangon, local and national government, academia, and civil society, to guide and oversee the C/Can process.

One of the foundational steps in the C/Can process is a data-driven needs assessment to identify key gaps and opportunities for improving access to quality cancer care. The needs assessment is guided by a questionnaire designed to systematically collect data on the quality and capacity of cancer care services in the city. It addresses the extent to which patients are placed at the centre of care by also assessing community access and integration of care within the city.

The City Executive Committee’s first task was to convene a multi-disciplinary Technical Committee of 27 local experts with expertise in the quality, management and delivery of cancer care, to coordinate a city-wide needs assessment. Together, they identified institutions that, based on their contribution to cancer care, should participate in data collection. The Technical Committee also convened a wider network of local experts that would collaborate as part of 23 inter-institutional, topic-specific working groups (incl. nuclear medicine, pathology, radiotherapy, medical oncology, surgery among others) to collect data, and analyse and interpret the findings.

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**CANCER BURDEN IN YANGON IN 2020**

- **54,700,330** Myanmar population
- **5,397,985** Yangon population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New cancer cases, males and females, all ages</td>
<td><strong>74,593</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cancer incidence rate, males and females</td>
<td><strong>136.8 (PER 100,000)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cancer deaths, males and females, all ages</td>
<td><strong>52,941</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cancer mortality rate, males and females</td>
<td><strong>99.0 (PER 100,000)</strong></td>
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<td>Five most common cancers, males: lung, stomach, liver, oesophagus, colorectum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Five most common cancers, females: cervix uteri, breast, lung, stomach, colorectum</td>
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### Availability of cancer care services

**Diagnostic laboratories (clinical and pathology labs) and blood bank**
- Lack of quality control and standard operational procedures in laboratories
- Lack of Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) and pathology report standardization
- Lack of major equipment and consumables in public laboratories

**Medical imaging (radiology and nuclear medicine)**
- Radiology equipment is limited and outdated in most public sector departments, and is not always under maintenance service contracts
- Lack of Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS) to ensure quality in the storage of images

**Surgical Care**
- Shortage of well-designed and equipped operating room for complex cancer surgery
- No written protocols for cancer surgery on breast, cervix and colorectal cancers

**Palliative and supportive care**
- Lack of guidelines for palliative care in the city/region
- Only one public hospital in the city has a palliative care clinic

**Medical oncology (adult and paediatric)**
- Lack of adequate facilities to provide medical oncology services (including specialised equipment and IT development) in public hospitals
- Erratic supply of oncology medicines

**Radiotherapy**
- Long waiting times for tele and brachytherapy in the public sector due to human resource shortage
- Lack of standardised treatment at radiotherapy centres
- Lack of radiotherapy quality assurance programs at the institutional and city levels
Following the needs assessment, C/Can supports an action planning exercise that results in a City Roadmap for Cancer Care. This city-led plan guides the prioritisation and development of a set of city projects, as well as identification of resource mobilisation, capacity development and technical cooperation needs.

In Yangon, 16 projects have been identified to address gaps including a radiotherapy development plan and quality assurance programme, standard operating procedures and a quality control manual for pathology, and the creation of 5 cross-institutional and multidisciplinary groups including for breast and cervical cancers. In parallel, C/Can is collaborating closely with local stakeholders to strengthen local capacity, leadership and an enabling policy environment to ensure the sustainability and long-lasting impact of city projects on access to quality cancer care, and ultimately patient outcomes. Learn more about progress in Yangon in the latest C/Can Activity Report.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS*

Central Women’s Hospital, Grand Hanthar Hospital, Military Hospital, New Yangon General Hospital, North Oakkalarpa General Hospital, No.2 Bahosi Hospital, Oakkalarpa Specialist Center Hospital (OSC), Pin Lon Hospital, PunHaing Sloam Hospital, Pyi Taw Thar Hospital, Shwegonedine Specialist Center Hospital (SSC), Shwe Yaung Hnin Si Cancer Foundation, ThinganGyun General Hospital, Thurein Mon Clinic, U Hla Tun Cancer Foundation (Hospice), Victoria Hospital, Yangon Children’s Hospital, Yangon General Hospital, Yangon Specialty Hospital, Yankin Children Hospital.

* Institutions that have contributed data to the needs assessment process in Yangon (listed alphabetically)