

National Cancer Control Programmes

Policies and managerial guidelines

2nd Edition



World Health Organization

NATIONAL
CANCER
CONTROL
PROGRAMMES

POLICIES AND MANAGERIAL GUIDELINES



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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

CANCER. The word still conjures up deep fears of a silent killer that creeps up on us without warning. Cancer, evoking such desperation that it has become a metaphor for grief and pain, a scourge straining our intellectual and emotional resources. The numbers are such that each of us will be touched either as a patient, a family member or a friend. There are over 20 million people living with cancer in the world today. The majority live in the developing world.

Yet, there is much that can be done in every country to prevent, cure and relieve this suffering. With the existing knowledge it is possible to prevent at least one-third of the 10 million cancer cases that occur annually throughout the world. Where sufficient resources are available, current knowledge also allows the early detection and effective treatment of a further one-third of those cases. Pain relief and palliative care can improve the quality of life of cancer patients and their families, even in very low resource settings thanks to effective, low-cost approaches.

Understanding and controlling malignant disease have very broad dimensions. It involves scientific knowledge and experience ranging from the complexities of intracellular molecular regulation to individual lifestyle choices. It also requires competent management and the best use of available resources for planning, implementing and evaluating disease control strategies. Cancer prevention and control are among the most important scientific and public health challenges of this era.

Our goal is to reduce the morbidity and mortality from cancer and improve the quality of life of cancer patients and their families, everywhere in the world where the cancer burden is high or there are rising trends of cancer risk factors. We have learned that no matter what resource

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