

The Cancer Burden in Low and Middle-income Countries (LMICs)

The IARC (International Agency for Research on Cancer) highlights the growing burden of cancer along with the disproportionate impact on underserved populations as well as the urgent need to address cancer inequities worldwide (based on available data in countries in 2022).

A few facts – did you know that:

- Global estimates reveal striking inequities in the cancer burden according to the Human Development Index (HDI)*.
- Each year over half of all new cancer cases and two-thirds of cancer deaths occur in LMICs.
- **Between 2.4 and 3.7 million avoidable deaths from cancer occur each year; 80% are in LMICs.**
- 50-60% of cancer mortality in LMICs is avoidable by applying country-specific strategies for prevention and treatment, compared to 35% in high-income countries.
- **Approximately 90% of cervical cancer cases occur in LMICs.**
- More than half of women with breast cancer who live in LMICs die from their disease, compared to less than a quarter of women in developed countries.
- In Canada approx. 90% of children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia are cured, but in the poorest countries of the world, it's the opposite: 90% of children will die from the disease.

*The HDI is a statistic developed and compiled by the United Nations to measure the countries' level of social and economic development, composed of four principal areas of interest: mean years of schooling, expected years of schooling, life expectancy at birth and gross national income per capita. HDI is ranked on a scale from 0 to 1.0, with 1.0 being the highest human development – the tiers are very high, high, medium and low human development.