

Controlling Cancer in Burkina Faso:

a research program to assess the acceptability and feasibility of the implementation of cancer registries

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The successful implementation of cancer registries in Burkina Faso requires immediate investment in IT infrastructure, trained personnel, and sustainable funding to ensure accurate data collection and improve cancer control strategies nationwide.

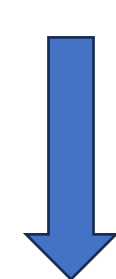
BACKGROUND

Cancer cases are predicted to double by 2045 in developing countries. Given the urgent need to address this burgeoning cancer crisis it is critical for concerned countries like Burkina Faso to use evidence-based epidemiological data for sustainable cancer control strategies. We have initiated in 2023 an implementation-research program to evaluate stakeholder perspectives, infrastructure capabilities, and data collection processes. We aim to build a functional model that can be scaled to other regions.

METHODS

Project phases

Two regional health districts of Burkina Faso: Ouahigouya (North) & Fada N’Gourma (Est)



Understanding stakeholder willingness to support cancer registries, analyzing infrastructure, and assessing ethical compliance.



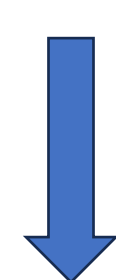
One hour focus group discussions at each health district (n)

- Healthcare professionals (1)
- Patients & Caregivers(1)
- Local authorities (1)



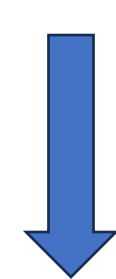
One hour face to face interviews at each health district (n)

- Healthcare professionals (8)
- Patients (8) & Caregivers (8)
- Public authorities (5)



Phase 2 : Feasibility Study

Trial phase where the processes, data collection, management, and analysis capabilities are tested in a controlled environment.



Phase 3 : Evaluation

Evaluation of the health system capability to support a continuous implementation of the registries in term of infrastructure, technical expertise, policy support, and financial resources.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS (Phase 1)

Table 1. Stakeholders' perspective for the main domains of discussion

Main domains of discussion	Stakeholders' perspective
Perceptions and need for cancer registry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accurate data and knowledge - Better resource allocation - Improved treatment and follow-up - Informed policy and prevention strategies
Challenges to implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Barriers to healthcare access - Lack of awareness and low literacy - Financial, technical and logistical Barriers - Sustainability issues
Feasibility and acceptability of cancer registries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Availability to support the establishment of cancer registries; - Willingness to participate in cancer registry initiatives if adequate training and support is provided



One healthcare professional highlighted the urgency of the situation
"Without proper data collection, we are fighting cancer blindly. A cancer registry would be a game-changer, allowing us to track, treat, and ultimately reduce the burden of this disease."

CONCLUSIONS

These preliminary results highlight the need for awareness campaigns, infrastructure improvements, and community engagement to successfully implement cancer registries in Burkina Faso. Stakeholders are willing to effectively support cancer data gathering, analysis, and dissemination to improve outcomes and inform policy decisions in these regions. These insights have informed the implementation of the ongoing pilot study which aims to test a functional system and identify any operational challenges, assess data quality and completeness, and ensure functionality meets the intended goals.

ADDITIONAL KEY INFORMATION

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Funding source:

