



NICRAT: The Institute pioneering a new approach to cancer research and treatment in sub-Saharan Africa

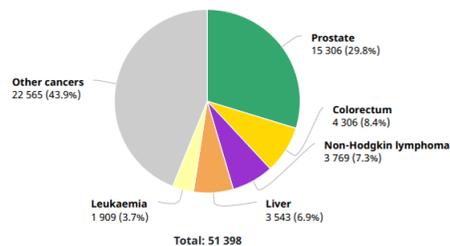
Usman A. Malami; Sani A. Malami; Uchechukwu E. Nwokwu; Usman W. Mohammed

¹National Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment (NICRAT), Abuja, Nigeria.

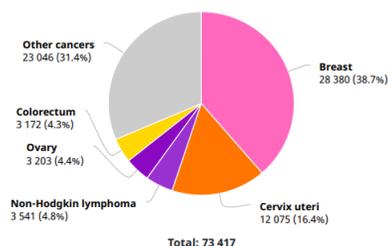
Background

Cancer is a major public health challenge in several sub-Saharan African countries, and some of these nations have established their national cancer institutes as a focal point to address this threat. These institutes are a science-based governmental institutions dedicated to cancer research, prevention, and treatment. Similarly, the Nigerian government founded the National Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment (NICRAT) in 2017. The purpose of this report is to provide an understanding of the opportunities in establishing a new cancer institute in Nigeria, the most populous Black Country in the world and the most populous country in Africa. We reviewed the history, mission and strategy of the National Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment (NICRAT).

Number of new cases in 2020, males, all ages



Number of new cases in 2020, females, all ages



Results

Some of the concerns that justified the establishment and initiation of a national cancer institute in Nigeria include the lack of a coordinated effort to study and combat the disease in Nigeria. The NICRAT was created to centralize cancer control efforts, mobilize funding from different sources for cancer research, and coordinate treatment activities across the country. Accordingly, the institute will promote the fight against cancer, providing a centralized focus for cancer research and treatment efforts, and facilitate collaboration between researchers, healthcare providers, and patients, as well as provide guidance for cancer policy formulation and implementation for decision-making. Modelled after the US National Cancer Institute (NCI), the NICRAT has institutionalised Nigeria's capacity to coordinate research efforts to support the use of evidence-based practices in designated Cancer Centers across the country. Additionally, the NICRAT is the focal point for the implementation of the National Cancer Control Plan (NCCP), and will also coordinate the National System of Cancer Registries and the Cancer Health Fund.

MISSION

To be a leading institute with focus on eliminating Cancer, through regulations and policies that ensure high-quality research, evidence-based treatment, prevention and control strategies driven by highly competent personnel.

VISION

A leading organization in Cancer Research, Treatment, Prevention and Control in Nigeria and Africa.

Discussion

Cancer institutes in sub-Saharan Africa are currently in early stages of evolution. Over the next 5 years, NICRAT's mission is to work in partnership with other arms of Government and partners to continue its efforts in advancing cancer research, prevention, and treatment. The NICRAT will also focus on improving cancer care delivery and access to care, enhancing cancer prevention and education efforts, and strengthening collaborations with international partners to address the cancer challenge. How successful the institute becomes in its mission will be determined by its capacity to develop the right partnerships, including with the private sector, adopting innovative approaches, and mobilising adequate resources.

Building a national cancer institute requires strong commitment, planning and action. The experience of setting up the NICRAT can inform similar efforts in other African countries.



Contact

- 📍 30 Tunis Street, Wuse Zone 6, 904101, Abuja.
- 📞 +234 80 3504 3318
- ✉ info@nicrat.gov.ng | nicrat.gov@gmail.com
- 🌐 nicrat.gov.ng | 📧 @NicratGov