



NICRAT
National Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment



NICRAT: The First Eight Months of 2026

Progress across prevention and screening, clinical services, research, cancer surveillance, workforce and partnerships, delivered under the National Cancer Control Plan.

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Strategic relevance of this report

This report highlights key activities and achievements delivered by NICRAT during the first eight months of 2026. It is not an exhaustive account of all activities, but provides a focused snapshot of progress across the Institute's priority areas. Each highlight is aligned with the National Cancer Control Plan (NCCP) 2026–2030, demonstrating progress against national priorities and showing partners, policymakers and the public where collaboration and investment can further accelerate delivery.

ALIGNMENT WITH NCCP 2026-2030 PILLARS

PILLAR 1 **Cancer Risk Assessment, Prevention and Early Detection**

PILLAR 2 **Timely and Accurate Cancer Diagnosis**

PILLAR 3 **Cancer Treatment, Survivorship and End-of-Life Care**

PILLAR 4 **Advocacy, Partnerships, Coordination and Financing**

PILLAR 5 **Strategic Information, Registration, Surveillance and Research**

PILLAR 6 **Patient Navigation and Care Coordination**

PILLAR 7 **Artificial Intelligence and Digital Innovation in Cancer Control**

WORKING WITH US

The sections that follow present selected activities, results and next steps across five institutional focus areas, mapped to the relevant NCCP 2026–2030 pillars. Partners across government, states, academia, the private sector and development agencies are invited to align support to the pillar where it will count most.

Eight Months Delivered, Four Months to Close

Between January and August 2026 NICRAT moved from planning into delivery across prevention, cancer surveillance, clinical services, research and partnerships. This summary sets out what was delivered against the NCCP 2026-2030 pillars and the year-to-go priorities that will close 2026.

DELIVERY HIGHLIGHTS • JANUARY - AUGUST 2026

PREVENTION	4,000+ screened nationally, including 721 across all 6 FCT Area Councils; knowledge-to-action gap reduced from over 73 to under 10 points; 8 preventive oncology clinics launched; Kick Out Cancer launched; Screening Register commenced.
DATA & SURVEILLANCE	Nigeria's first consolidated Cancer Burden Report (2024) produced; 100+ registrars trained; 8 registries accredited; AfCRN MOU and NDPC registration secured.
CLINICAL SERVICES	MOU signed for 35 additional LINAC and Presidential approval for NICRAT HQ; Childhood Cancer Fund live at 3 centres; subsidised IHC piloted at 3 sites; NCAP expanding toward 30 centres.
RESEARCH	14 proposals developed and 4 competitive grants awarded by NICRAT; EORTC quality-of-life tools under validation; Nigeria Journal of Cancer Research established; national cancer biobank operationalized.
PARTNERSHIPS	48 partners engaged, approximately 75% progressing to active workstreams; cancer control leadership showcased at the World Health Assembly, Best of ASCO Africa, Africa Health Business Forum and China-Africa Hospital Collaboration Forum; clinical-trial readiness advanced; the Africa Oncology Collaborative Network (AOCN) launched in 6 pilot African countries.

YEAR END2026 PRIORITIES • SEPTEMBER -DECEMBER

- **PREVENTION:** Stage the Kick Out Cancer football match, move the National Cancer Screening Register to pilot deployment , cancer awareness and strengthen state-level cancer coordination.
- **DATA & SURVEILLANCE :** Disseminate national registry SOPs, stand up the Technical Working Group and agree the method for the next burden report.
- **CLINICAL:** Zonal training for prostate and ophthalmic cancer, complete NCAP site expansion and NCHF financing, conclude the NBSA blood-supply protocol and deliver International Cancer Week.
- **RESEARCH:** Sign the EORTC MOU, inaugurate the NJCR editorial board and secure funding pathways for the 10 proposals not yet awarded.
- **PARTNERSHIPS:** Operationalize the Precision Medicine TWG, expand the ARETA study to 6 additional centres, expand the AOCN model across priority African countries and extend reach into 3 additional states.

ABBREVIATIONS

AfCRN - African Cancer Registry Network · AOCN - Africa Oncology Collaborative Network · EORTC - European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer · FCT - Federal Capital Territory · ICW - International Cancer Week · LINAC - linear accelerator · MOU - Memorandum of Understanding · NBSA - National Blood Service Agency · NCAP - National Cancer Access Partnership · NCCP - National Cancer Control Plan · NCHF - National Cancer Health Fund · NDPC - Nigeria Data Protection Commission · NICE-SCAN - National Initiative for Cancer Early Detection, Screening and Coordinated Access to Networked Care · NJCR - Nigeria Journal of Cancer Research · SOP - standard operating procedure · TWG - Technical Working Group · YTG - Year to Go



Taking Screening Into the Community

Nigeria continues to face gaps in early detection, community-level screening and referral. The first eight months moved prevention closer to communities while building systems to scale and track it nationally.

73 → <10 pts

The knowledge-action gap in the FCT campaign, the distance between people knowing about screening and actually being screened narrowed from over 73 percentage points to under 10.

2 NTF-CCE STATES

Launched in Imo and Niger States and about 20 treated for pre-cancerous lesions

KICK OUT CANCER LAUNCHED

Football initiative with NFF, SGFN, ALGON and partners taking cancer awareness to the stands

30K+ REACHED

956 community stakeholders engaged in person, 30,000+ digitally

4000+ PEOPLE

Screened via NICE-SCAN, community outreaches, PHCs and AACR partnership

120 PWA

Persons with Albinism screened for skin cancer via the Shade the Sun campaign

129 HCWs

Health workers trained: 36 PHC (84% score) + 93 under Shade the Sun

8 PREVENTIVE ONCOLOGY CLINICS

Launched via NICE-SCAN equipped with diagnostic equipment and hardware devices to deliver coordinated screening and referral pathway.

NATIONAL COORDINATION BUILT IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS

EARLY DETECTION

Development of standardized SOPs, risk Assessment Tools, training curricula, IEC materials and project implementation tools

SCREENING

Advanced the NICE-SCAN partnership framework for coordinated national screening delivery.

DATA

Commenced the National Cancer Screening Register; tracking positive cases and referrals.

FIRST EIGHT MONTHS AT ONE GLANCE

The first eight months of 2026 turned awareness into uptake and laid the national infrastructure. Once operational, the Screening Register will give Nigeria a single view of who is screened, where, and where patients are lost along the pathway.

YTG 2026 PRIORITIES

- Stage the Kick Out Cancer football match
- Move Screening Register to pilot deployment
- Strengthen state-level cancer coordination
- Awareness campaign in 6 states

ABBREVIATIONS

AACR - American Association for Cancer Research · ALGON - Association of Local Governments of Nigeria · FCT - Federal Capital Territory · HCWs - Health Care Workers · IEC - Information, Education and Communication · MOU - Memorandum of Understanding · NCCP - National Cancer Control Plan · NFF - Nigeria Football Federation · NICE-SCAN - National Initiative for Cancer Early Detection, Screening and Coordinated Access to Networked Care · NICRAT - National Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment · PHC - Primary Health Centre · pts - percentage points · PWA - Persons with Albinism · SGF - Secretary to the government of the federation



Giving Nigeria Its First National Cancer Burden Report

Nigeria had no nationally consolidated statement of its cancer burden. The first eight months built the standards, workforce and legal foundation to change that.

2024

Nigeria Cancer Burden Report, the country's first national statement of cancer incidence and mortality produced from Nigerian registries reporting to one common standard, moving beyond GLOBOCAN estimates.

100+ TRAINED

Registrars & records personnel trained in ICD-10, TNM staging and CanReg5 across the country

8 LOCATIONS

Capacity building for data registrar in Jos, Oyo, Cross River, Enugu, Lagos, Borno, Sokoto and FCT

8 ACCREDITED

Cancer registry accredited to IARC standard.

1 SOP SET

National finalization meeting held by the TWG on the SOP manual for cancer registrars

3yr MOU

Technical-support agreement signed with AFCRN for continental QA expertise

✓ NDPC

Nigeria Data Protection Commission registration secured for data protection and sharing

HOW THE REPORT GOT BUILT

SOURCE

Standardized data at source so returns are comparable between institutions.

NETWORK

Widened and quality-assured the contributing registry network; installed CanReg5.

DASHBOARD

Updating the NCR dashboard to reflect our estimates in line with global standards

FIRST EIGHT MONTHS AT ONE GLANCE

The Federal Ministry of Health has mandated NICRAT to lead the national Technical Working Group for the next estimate — converting the report from a one-off publication into a recurring national product.

YTG 2026 PRIORITIES

- Disseminate the national registry SOPs
- Stand up the Technical Working Group
- Agree method for the next burden report

ABBREVIATIONS

AFCRN - African Cancer Registry Network · CanReg5 - open-source cancer registry data system · IARC - International Agency for Research on Cancer · ICD-10 — International Classification of Diseases for Oncology · NCR - National Cancer Registry · NDPC - Nigeria Data Protection Commission · QA - quality assurance · SOP - standard operating procedure · TNM — Tumour, Node, Metastasis staging system. YTG-Year to Go



Building Clinical Infrastructure for Cancer Care

The first eight months strengthened diagnosis, financial protection and supply coordination; addressing the barriers that can stop a Nigerian patient from ever reaching treatment.

35

MOU signed for the procurement of 35 LINAC radiotherapy machines, expanding national treatment capacity and approval granted by H.E President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR for the construction of NICRAT HQ.

3 CENTRES

Childhood Cancer Fund launched: FMC Abeokuta, UDUTH Sokoto, JUTH Jos

10,000+ PATIENTS

NCAP/NCHF partner meeting held to co-create strategies for improving care for the 10,000+ patients accessing care via the platform

30 CENTRES NCAP goal

6 new sites under NCAP expansion assessment to achieve 30 NCAP Centres

IHC SUBSIDIZED

Roche programme with NICRAT: multi-centre EQA for IHC, piloted at NHA, LUTH and UPTH

IAEA ENGAGED

IAEA engaged for a bankable document after completion of impact review report

6 TELEMEDICINE

6 telemedicine equipment deployed across the 6 geopolitical zones

WHAT MOVED IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS

GOVERNANCE	ICW and Childhood Cancer Technical Working Group made operational for governance
INFRASTRUCTURE	Diagnostic capacity , service delivery expansion in progress
FINANCIAL	Protected families from treatment cost through the Childhood Cancer Fund.
SUPPLY	Opened engagement with NBSA on blood-supply delays affecting treatment.
DIASPORA	Engaged NiDCOM to establish linkage with diaspora groups supporting cancer care.

FIRST EIGHT MONTHS AT ONE GLANCE

Histopathology and telemedicine diagnostic capacity was strengthened across all six geopolitical zones, while financial protection became operational at three childhood cancer centres. Zonal training is fully prepared; venues, participants and materials await only fund release.

YTG 2026 PRIORITIES

- Secure fund release for zonal training programmes on ophthalmic & prostate cancer
- Complete the NCAP site expansion and NCHF innovative financing engagement
- Conclude NBSA blood-supply protocol
- Execute the ICW Conference

ABBREVIATIONS

FMC – Federal Medical Centre · IAEA - International Atomic Energy Agency · ICW -International Cancer Week · IHC - Immunohistochemistry · JUTH -Jos University Teaching Hospital · MOU -Memorandum of Understanding · NBSA - National Blood Service Agency · NiDCOM - Nigerians in Diaspora Commission · NCAP - National Cancer Access Partnership · NCHF - National Cancer Health Fund · TWG - Technical Working Group · UDUTH -Usmanu Danfodiyo University Teaching Hospital



Building Research Capacity and a National Cancer Journal

The first eight months moved the Directorate's pipeline from training and mentorship into funded, monitored research and validated patient-reported outcome tools.

14

Research proposals developed, submitted, and presented through the NICRAT–SYDANI Intermediate Range Capacity Building Programme: Nigeria's structured pipeline taking early- and mid-career researchers from training through to a fundable proposal.

4

GRANTS AWARDED

Research grants awarded under NICRAT–SYDANI to fund proposals developed in Q1

NCBN

8 STATES ASSESSED

Site assessment visits across 8 states appraised laboratory infrastructure and readiness to host National Cancer Biobank Network nodes

5

TRAININGS

Grant proposal writing, scientific writing, systematic review, scoping review, meta-analysis and precision oncology

QoL assessment tool

Validation of the EORTC Quality of Life assessment tools commenced in the Nigerian context across three major Nigerian languages (Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba)

20+ ABSTRACTS

Submitted across 4 conferences; several manuscripts published and others under review.

NJCR

JOURNAL DESIGN

Nigeria Journal of Cancer Research designed: scope, editorial structure and peer-review workflow set for launch

WHAT MOVED IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS

PIPELINE

Training and mentorship converted into output: 14 proposals developed and presented in Q1, of which 4 were awarded competitive research grants in Q2.

MONITOR

Grant implementation moved from award to oversight: biweekly progress reporting from all four awardees ran throughout Q2 for accountability and early issue detection.

EVIDENCE

Systematic review and meta-analysis work continued across both quarters, from literature screening and data extraction in Q1 to manuscripts submitted for supervisor review in Q2.

TOOLS

A new workstream opened in Q2: EORTC Quality-of-Life tools for the Nigerian context, moving from protocol design to active participant recruitment and data collection.

STATUS AT 8 MONTHS

4 of 14 developed proposals are funded and under active monitoring. Systematic review manuscripts are at supervisor review; the EORTC validation study has begun data collection but is not yet complete.

LOOKING AHEAD · YTG 2026

- Sign MOU with EORTC
- Inaugurate the Editorial Board of the Nigeria Journal of Cancer Research
- Capacity building for the NCBN team to support site activation and the Phase1 800-biospecimen requirement
- Identify funding pathways for the 10 developed proposals not yet awarded

ABBREVIATIONS

EORTC - European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer · MOU - Memorandum of Understanding · NCBN - National Cancer Biobank Network · NJCR - Nigeria Journal of Cancer Research · QoL - Quality of Life · SYDANI - NICRAT-SYDANI capacity building partner · YTG - Year to Go



Turning Engagement into Cancer-Control Actions

Partnerships are translating into tangible institutional gains across cancer research, financing, clinical trials, medicine access, regional collaboration and public engagement.

75%

of partnership introductions progressed into active workstreams, from 48 partners engaged across biobanking, clinical trials, financing and medicine access.

BioVana MOUs

BIOVANA MOUs strengthening national biospecimen capacity for cancer research

TRIALS READINESS

Led clinical-trial coordination with key global and national stakeholders for improving locally led trials and expanded diagnostics.

AOCN SECRETARIAT

AHB MOU established NICRAT as host of the AOCN Secretariat

500+ LEADERS

Oncology leaders connected to NICRAT via Best of ASCO Africa, AHB and the Commonwealth Forum

4 GRANT APPLICATIONS

Submitted to mobilize resources for cancer research and partnership delivery

15 STATES

Cancer awareness and coordination extended across 15 states through strategic partnerships, including engagement with the Nigeria Governors Spouses Forum

WHAT CHANGED BECAUSE OF THESE PARTNERSHIPS

GLOBAL

Global partnerships mobilized to strengthen childhood cancers and other priority cancer-control programmes .

FINANCING

Nigeria positioned as a continental pace-setter in sustainable cancer control and financing

INDUSTRY

Leveraged industry partnerships for expanded access to expertise in medicines, diagnostics and genomics : **(BioVana, Roche, MSD, Xcene Research , AACR, AMGEN, Syndicate Bio)**

TRIALS

National clinical-trial coordination strengthened across FMOHSW, NHREC, NHRC and industry, laying the foundation for locally led trials.

KNOWLEDGE

NCAP report and manuscript advanced policy evidence; PVAC partnership for the Cancer Burden Report launch to inform industry planning.

MEDIA

Over 100 media mentions amplified the Institute's visibility and cancer control agenda across multiple platforms

FIRST EIGHT MONTHS AT A GLANCE

48 strategic partners engaged, with approximately 75% progressing to active workstreams; strengthening Nigeria's position across cancer research, financing, clinical trials, medicine access and regional collaboration.

WHAT PARTNERSHIPS WILL DELIVER NEXT

- Expand cancer awareness partnerships to 3 additional states
- Transition the Precision Medicine TWG from planning to operational delivery
- Expand the AOCN model across priority African countries
- Translate NCAP findings into policy and implementation actions
- Advance the **NICRAT-DATICAN-ARETA** collaboration towards clinical-trial readiness
- Roll out the Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month campaign in partnership with NGSF



ABBREVIATIONS: KIRCT -Kano Independent Research Centre Trust; ASCO -American Society of Clinical Oncology; AHB -Africa Health Business; ACS -American Cancer Society; NGSF -Nigeria Governors' Spouses Forum; NHRC -National Health Research Committee; NHREC -National Health Research Ethics Committee of Nigeria; PVAC -Presidential Initiative for Unlocking the Healthcare Value Chain; FMOHSW -Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

Moments From the Field: Prevention & Data

A visual snapshot of activity across five institutional focus areas, January - August 2026

01 PREVENTION & CONTROL



Preventive Oncology Clinic launch



Preventive Oncology Clinic — NICE-SCAN unveiling



Shade the



the Sun skin cancer campaign



Community-based screening outreach



Community sensitisation & screening drive



Community screening turnout



Facility-based breast screening



Cervical Cancer Screening Programme Imo state flag-off



AACR Partnership Cancer Screening Campaign



Kick Out Cancer — 60-Day Countdown campaign



Community screening & registration

02 DATA, SURVEILLANCE & MONITORING



Sokoto Cancer Registry



Jos Cancer Registry



Enugu Cancer Registry



Calabar Cancer Registry



Registry SOP finalisation meeting



AFCRN registrar & data-manager training

Moments From the Field: Clinical, Research & Partnerships

A visual snapshot of activity across five institutional focus areas, January–August 2026

03 CLINICAL SERVICES



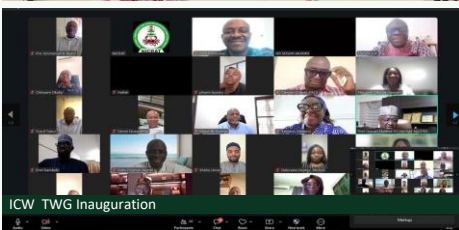
NCAP/NCHF partnership meeting



Media coverage: Presidential approval for NICRAT Cancer Institute



China-Nigeria MOU — 35 LINAC radiotherapy machines



ICW TWG Inauguration



Paediatric cancer awareness with The Dorcas Cancer Foundation



Network of People Impacted by Cancer in Nigeria (NEPICIN) Summit

04 RESEARCH & INNOVATION



Grant recipient



Intermediate Range Capacity Building for cancer researchers



Intermediate Range Capacity Building cohort 2



Intermediate Range Capacity Building - SIRI partnership



National Cancer Biobank Network - site assessment visit



Intermediate Range Capacity Building -award ceremony

05 STRATEGY, PARTNERSHIPS & DEVELOPMENT



Best of ASCO Africa



Best of ASCO Africa



Improving Clinical Trials



XCENE Research - MOU signing



Nigeria Governors' Spouses Forum (NGSF) engagement



AOCN - Africa Health Business (AHB) engagement



MSD panel session



Commonwealth Forum engagement



PVAC engagement



Partnership engagement to improve precision testing in cancer care



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For enquiries, partnership proposals and collaboration opportunities

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