

**4<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

**Immediate Press Release: World Cancer Day 2024**



World Cancer Day held every 4<sup>th</sup> February was created in 2000 for everyone, everywhere to unite under one voice to face one of our greatest challenges in history. Is the global uniting initiative led by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC). By raising worldwide awareness, improving education and catalysing personal, collective and government action, we are all working together to reimagine a world where millions of preventable cancer deaths are saved and access to life-saving cancer treatment and care is equitable for all - no matter who you are or where you live.

This year! where hundreds of activities and events take place around the world – online and offline - acting as a powerful reminder that we all have a role to play in reducing the global impact of cancer. While we live in a time of awe-inspiring advancements in cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment, many of us who seek cancer care hit barriers at every turn. Income, illiteracy, geographical location and discrimination based on ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability and lifestyle are just a few of the factors that can negatively affect care.

So, this year's World Cancer Day's theme, “Close the Care Gap”, is all about making sure our leaders know that we demand a commitment to prioritising cancer, to creating innovative strategies designed to confront inequity and to investing our resources to achieve a just and cancer-free world. We call on leaders to eliminate health inequities by addressing their root causes, ensuring that everyone has access to quality health services when, where and how they need them.

Today! [Network AID](#) joins [World Cancer Day](#) movement to call on the world leaders in closing the cancer care gap of all with strong emphasis on the illiterate.

1. Cancer is the second-leading cause of death worldwide.
2. 10 million people die from cancer every year.
3. More than 40% of cancer-related death could be preventable as they are linked to modifiable risk factors such as smoking, alcohol use, poor diet and physical inactivity.
4. Almost at least one third of all deaths related to cancer could be prevented through routine screening, and early detection and treatment.
5. 70% of cancer deaths occur in low-to-middle income countries.
6. Millions of lives could be saved each year by implementing resource appropriate strategies for prevention, early detection and treatment.
7. The total annual economic cost of cancer is estimated at US\$1.16 trillion.

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<sup>1</sup>World Cancer Day – [www.worldcancerday.org](http://www.worldcancerday.org)

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