



**Report Launch:**  
**Measuring survival, driving change**  
**Advancing equity through the**  
**WHO Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer**

May 12, 2026

WHO Headquarters Geneva



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# Housekeeping rules



- Participants are welcome to introduce themselves in the Zoom chat box. Please share your name organization and where you are joining from.



- Microphones will remain disabled throughout the event to support smooth facilitation.



- You can use the Q&A function in zoom to share your questions or comments.



- The webinar is being recorded and will be made available after the event.

# Welcome!

Measuring survival,  
driving change

Advancing equity through the WHO  
Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer



World Health  
Organization

# Agenda

| Time (CET)    | Topic  | Facilitator / Speaker   |
|---------------|--|---|
| 13.00 – 13.04 | Welcome and meeting introduction   | Roberta Ortiz   |
| 13.04 – 16.16 | Opening remarks  | Jeremy Farrar<br>Carlos Rodriguez-Galindo   |
| 13.16 – 13.39 | Introduction to the Report<br>Measuring Survival Driving Change:<br><i>Advancing equity through the WHO Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Report overview</li><li>• Introducing 1<sup>st</sup> WHO childhood cancer country comparable survival estimates</li></ul> | Roberta Ortiz<br>Fabio Girardi<br>Charlton Callender  |
| 13.39 – 14.20 | Moderated Panel discussion: Measuring Progress Together, Global Efforts to Track Survival and Improve Childhood Cancer Outcomes  | <i>Moderated by: Catherine Lam</i><br>Kathy Prichard Jones<br>Venkatraman Radhakrishnan,<br>Nickhill Bhakta<br>Michel Coleman<br>Eva-Steliarova Foucher |
| 14.20 – 14.30 | Reflections, way forward and closing remarks   | André Ilbawi  |

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# Opening Remarks

Dr Jeremy Farrar

Assistant Director-General

Division of Health Promotion, Disease Prevention  
and Care, WHO HQ



# Opening Remarks

Dr. Carlos Rodriguez-Galindo  
St Jude Children's Research Hospital  
Executive Vice President  
Chair, Department of Global Paediatric Medicine,  
Director, St Jude Global



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# Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer

Dr Roberta Ortiz  
Childhood Cancer Medical Officer  
Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer Focal Point  
Department of Noncommunicable Diseases and  
Mental Health, WHO HQ



# Report Overview

“Measuring Survival, Driving Change, Advancing Equity through the WHO Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer”



## Contents

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Preface  | v    |
| Acknowledgements   | vi   |
| Abbreviations  | vii  |
| Executive summary  | viii |
| <b>1</b> Overview of the WHO Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer                                    | 1    |
| <b>2</b> Mapping the global burden, measuring the survival gap   | 5    |
| <b>3</b> From commitment to impact: the CureAll framework as a driver for health systems strengthening | 13   |
| References   | 25   |
| Annex. WHO global and regional lymphoid leukaemia five-year median survival estimates                  | 29   |



## Structure and scope

- 1** Overview of the WHO Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer
- 2** Mapping the Global Burden and Measuring the Survival Gap
- 3** From Commitment to Impact: *CureAll* as a Driver for Health Systems Strengthening



Present the first WHO **Country comparable** childhood cancer survival estimates to establish a baseline.



Highlight persistent inequities on childhood cancer survival to influence **policies and programmes** and accelerate impact toward **2030 target**.



Showcase GICC **global** progress through advances in *CureAll* implementation.



The report combines **advocacy, evidence generation, and implementation** progress to support policy action.

# Section 1: Highly treatable, highly impactful, highly inequitable. Why we prioritize childhood cancer?

Every child, everywhere deserves a chance to survive.



Over **400,000**

children develop cancer every year globally.



Survival **exceeds 80%** in many high-income countries but remains **below 30%** in some low-resource settings.



Childhood cancer is now recognized as a **global NCD priority**.



The GICC target aims to achieve at least **60% survival** globally by 2030 while reducing suffering.

1



Childhood cancers are **highly curable** with **timely diagnosis** and **treatment**.

2



Childhood cancer represents a major yet largely **avoidable disease burden**, contributing substantially to disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) worldwide.

3



Survival outcomes strongly **reflect health system performance** and are survival a strong indicator of broader progress in NCDs and health systems strengthening.

4



Despite the high impact and cost-effectiveness of interventions, childhood cancer remains **under-prioritized** within the global NCD agenda.

5



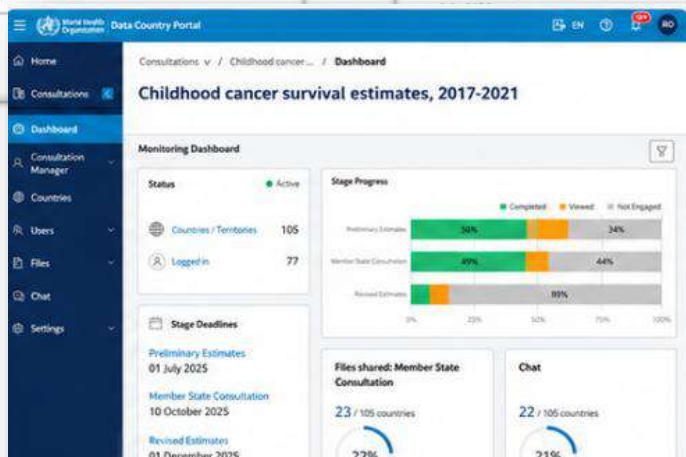
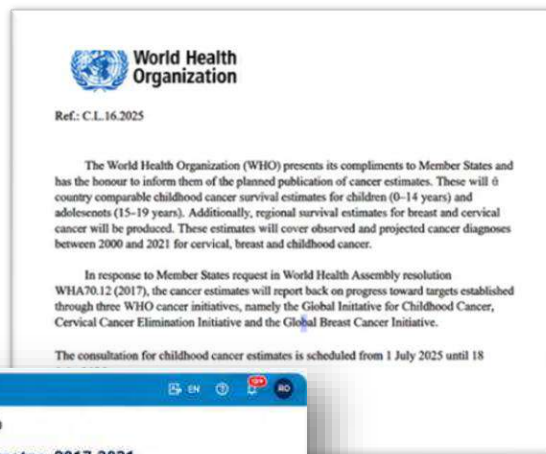
Childhood cancer has **profound generational consequences**, affecting families through poverty, interrupted education, and social disruption.

# Section 1: Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer Journey



Through GICC childhood cancer has evolved from a neglected public health issue to a recognized global health priority.

# Section 2: Mapping the Global Survival Gap & First WHO Country Comparable Survival Estimates



Better data. Better decisions. Better outcomes for every child.



### A BURDEN STILL HIDDEN BY DATA GAPS

- Population-based cancer registry coverage remains limited globally
- Up to 43% of childhood cancer cases may go undiagnosed
- Reliable data are essential for policy-making and accountability

### SURVIVAL INEQUITIES ACROSS THE WORLD

- Survival ranges from below 20% to above 90% across settings
- Adolescents experience worse outcomes than younger children
- Delayed diagnosis, treatment abandonment, and limited access to care drive inequities

### FIRST WHO COUNTRY-COMPARABLE SURVIVAL ESTIMATES

- WHO produced the first comparable 5-year survival estimates across 194 Member States
- Lymphoid leukaemia used as a tracer condition
- Creates a global baseline to monitor progress toward the 2030 target

# Section 2: Major Findings from WHO Country Comparable Estimates



## High-income regions perform best

The Western Pacific and European Regions have achieved the highest estimated survival levels.



## Lower survival in resource-constrained regions

The African Region and parts of the Eastern Mediterranean Region continue to face persistent challenges.



## Wide variability reflects health system differences

Survival is strongly influenced by access to timely diagnosis, essential medicines and high-quality care.



## Targeted action is urgently needed

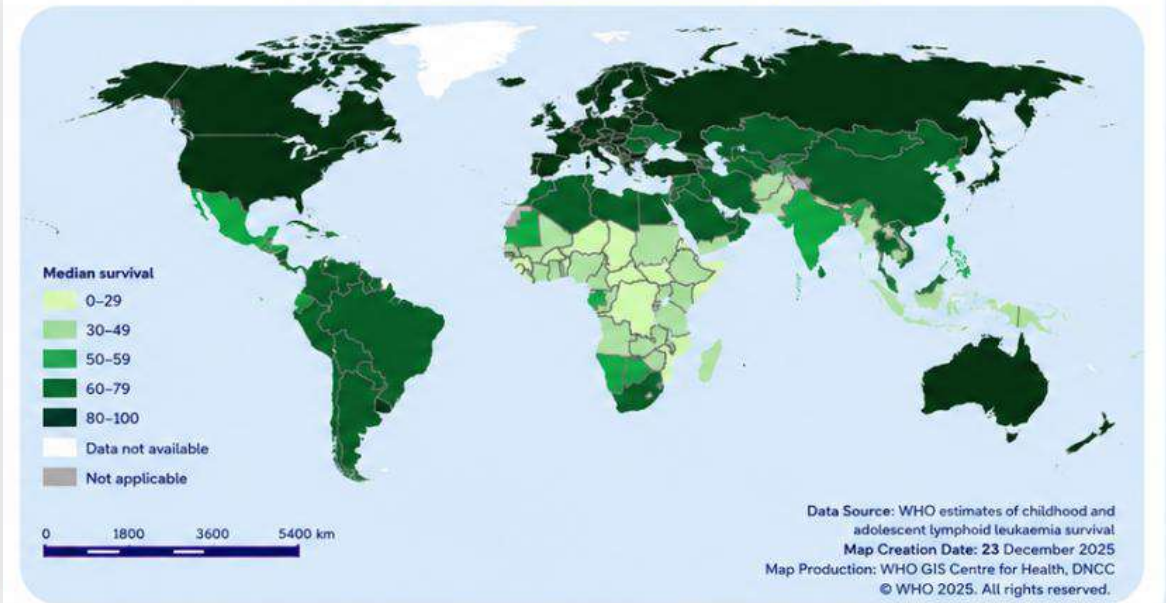
To close the survival gap and ensure every child and adolescent with cancer has a chance to survive.



## KEY FINDING 1

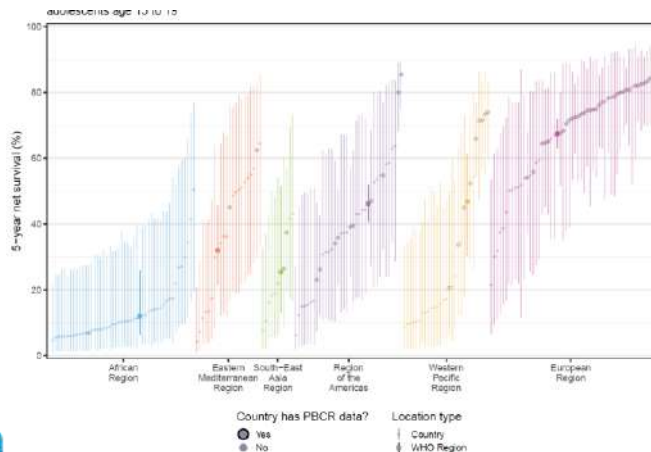
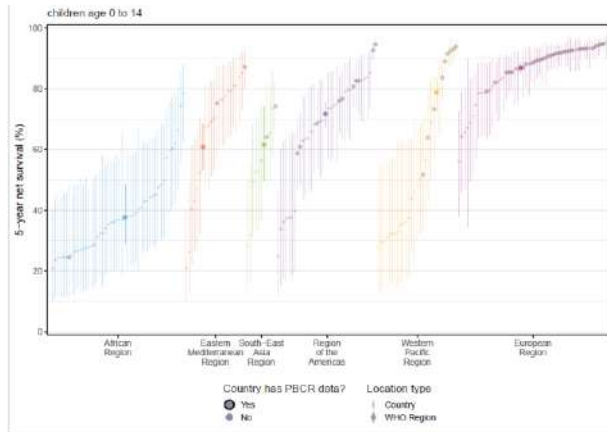
**Large and persistent survival gaps exist across the world.**

Median Survival (%) of Childhood Cancer by Country



# Section 2: Major Findings from WHO Country Comparable Estimates

## GLOBAL 5-YEAR NET SURVIVAL (%) BY WHO REGION



## KEY FINDING 2

**Global childhood cancer survival has improved, but progress is uneven.**



### Overall improvement (2000–2021)

Global childhood cancer survival has improved between 2000 and 2021.



### Uneven progress for adolescents

Progress has been slower for adolescents aged 15–19 years.

Regions with stronger health system investment have made more progress



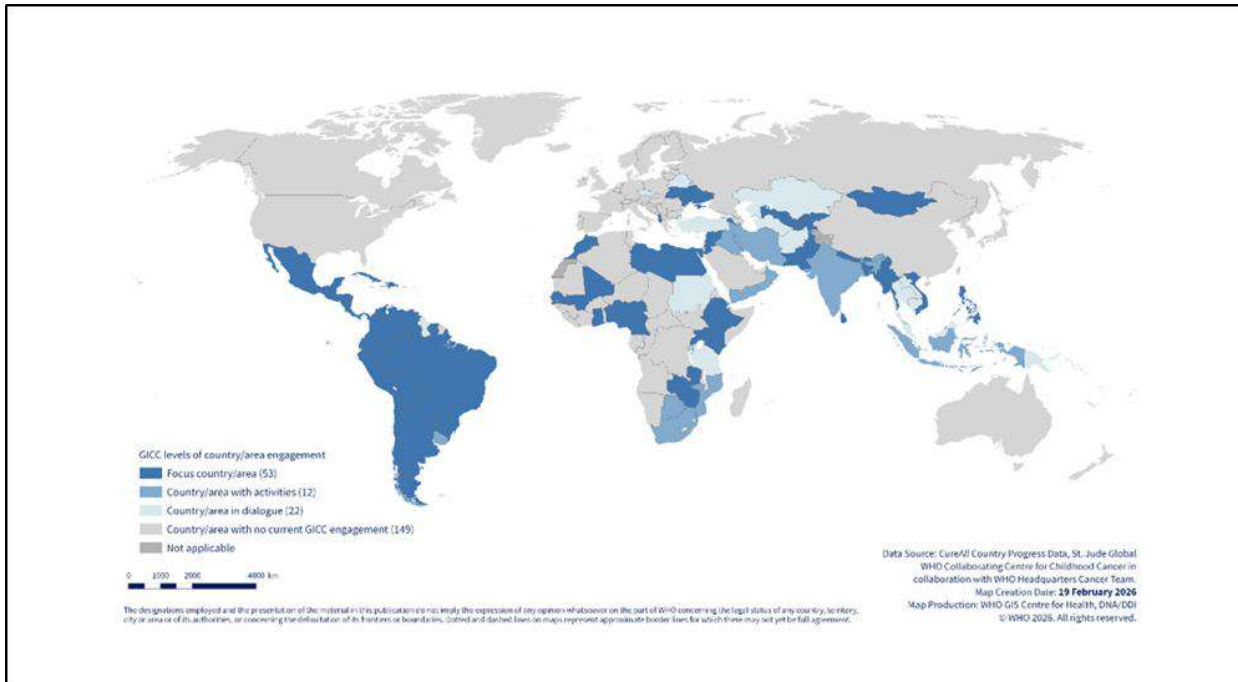
Stronger health system investment  
More upward trends



Resource-constrained regions  
Slower progress

# Section 3: CureAll a Driver for Health System Impact , Accelerating Progress toward 2030 Target

87 Countries



The CureAll Framework, focuses on four pillars and three enablers, to provide guidance for developing and sustaining health programs and policies that increase countries' capacity to provide quality services for children with cancer.

# Section 3: CureAll Framework Driver For Health Systems Strengthening



Section three showcases how countries engaged with GICC, receiving intense support through the WHO-St Jude Partnership in collaboration with National Authorities, supported by other global, regional, and local partners, are **advancing CureAll implementation across the 6 WHO regions, delivering on GICC objective one:**

To increase countries' capacities to provide quality services for children and adolescents with cancer.



Expansion of centres of excellence



Workforce training and capacity building



Access to essential medicines through GPA+CCM



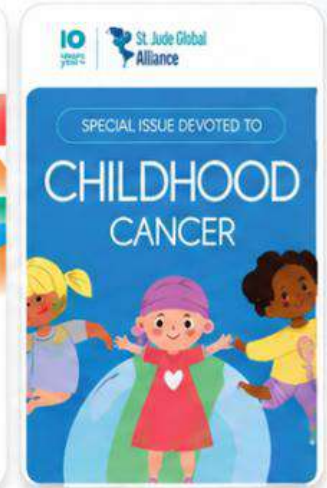
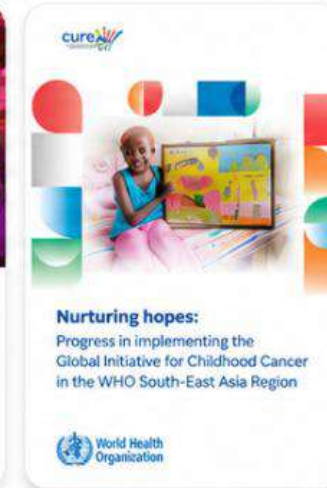
Expansion of population-based cancer registries



Regional implementation networks



Successful model of multisectoral collaboration to advance Innovation, Research, Access to Medicines and improve childhood cancer Surveillance are described

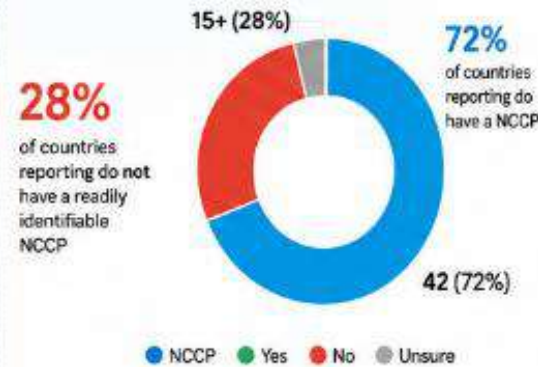
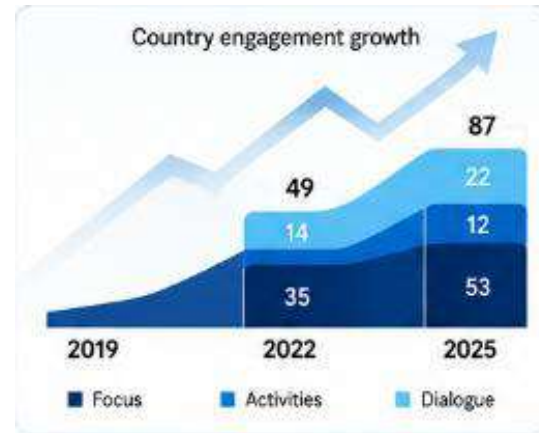


# Section 3: CureAll Framework Driver For Health Systems Strengthening

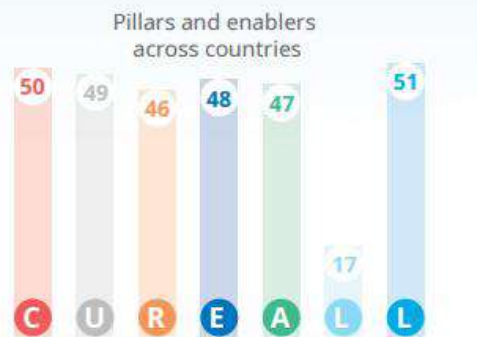


CureAll 2018–2025 implementation turning political commitment into action to **save one million lives** by 2030 and reduce **suffering for all**

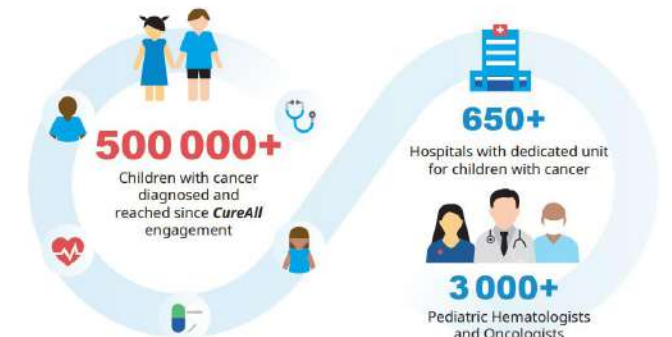
1. Analysis of cancer health system
2. National Cancer Control Strategy Development/implementation
3. Implementation of cancer workforce training packages
4. National network and referral pathways strengthening
5. Defining national standards and guidelines for index cancers
6. Essential medicines and technologies strengthening, including via UN
7. Economic analysis and benefit packages review of cancer
8. Strengthening & linking cancer registries (population & hospital based)
9. Country dashboard for childhood cancer monitoring
10. Local/regional advocacy portfolios: case studies, awareness campaigns



**50 countries** across all six WHO regions have included childhood cancer in their national cancer control plan strategies since 2019



- 145 K+** Children with cancer diagnosed and reached in 2025
- 85** NCCP Projects
- 83%** of reporting countries are implementing NCCP projects
- 118** NCCP deliverables of which **40% linked to U pillar**



©CureAll Country Progress Dashboard (2025). Health Systems Unit, Department of Global Pediatric Medicine, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN, USA as WHO Collaborating Centre for Childhood Cancer, in partnership with WHO Headquarters Cancer Team. Map boundaries are provided by Microsoft and should not be considered authoritative.

# GICC Key Priorities to Accelerate Progress toward 2030



## Activate Political Will

- Sustain political commitment under the UNGA Political Declaration.
- Prioritize childhood cancer within national NCD and UHC agendas.
- Strengthen governance and accountability mechanisms.
- Sustain global and domestic political commitment.



## Set Priorities and Invest Wisely

- Expand access to timely diagnosis and treatment.
- Strengthen population-based cancer registries and survival monitoring.
- Invest in workforce development, medicines access and quality care.
- Use data to guide evidence-informed policy-making.



## Provide Care for All

- Scale up person-centred childhood cancer services.
- Reduce treatment abandonment and inequities.
- Strengthen universal health coverage for childhood cancer.
- Build resilient systems through partnerships and innovation.

**Cross-cutting priorities: strengthen surveillance systems • expand equitable access • scale sustainable financing and workforce capacity • use data for accountability**

# WHO Childhood Cancer Survival estimation to deliver on the Mandate



Fabio Girardi, M.D.  
Cancer consultant  
Department of Noncommunicable Diseases  
and Mental Health  
World Health Organization



Charlton Callender  
Data Scientist  
Department of Data, Digital Health,  
Analytics and AI  
World Health Organization



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# Population-based cancer registry survival

Observed population-based cancer registry survival estimates must underpin any attempt at global cancer survival estimates.

## CONCORD-3

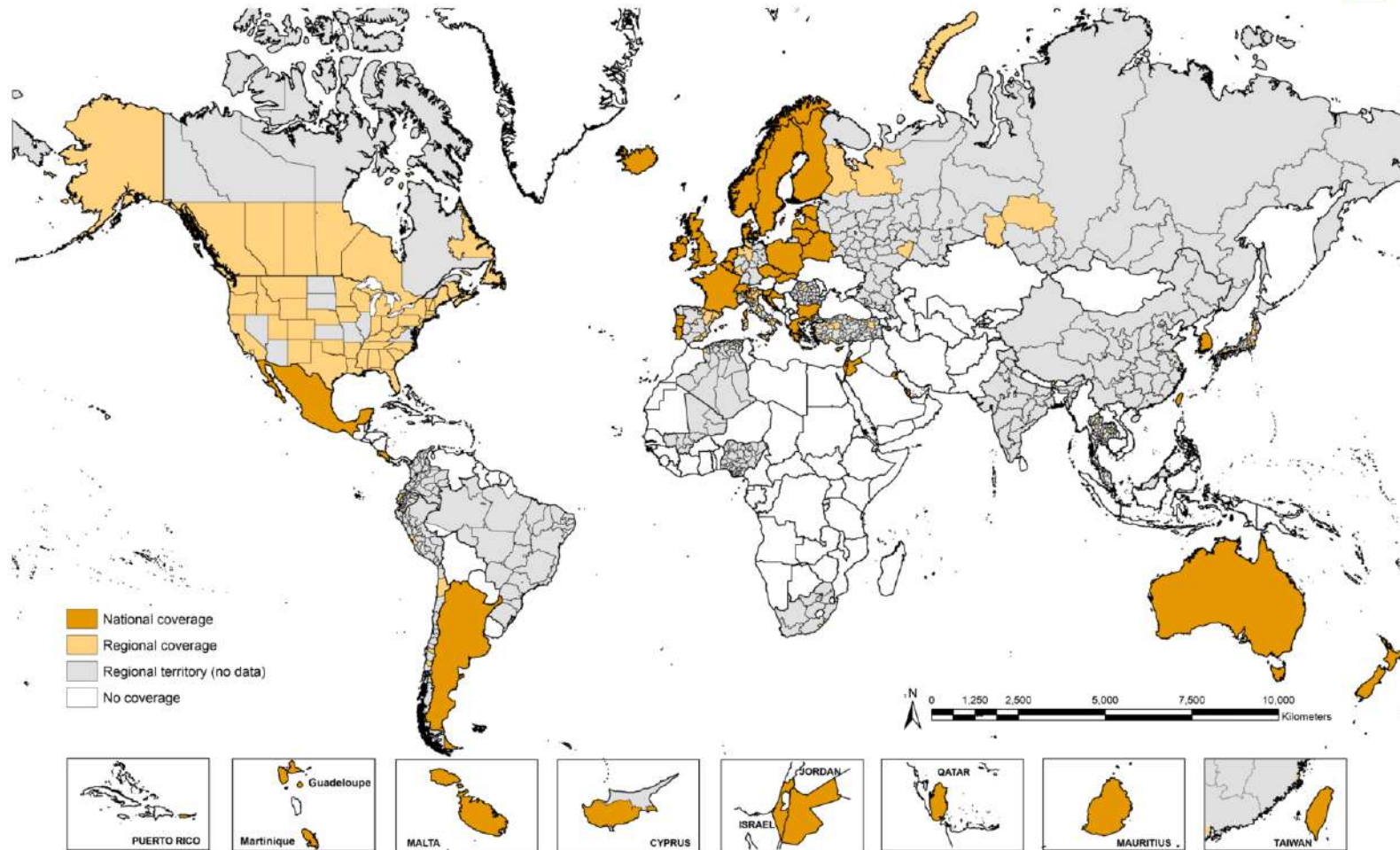
- 37,000,000 patients from 322 population-based cancer registries in 71 countries
- 18 common cancer types
- Diagnoses between 2000 and 2014
- Quality control: protocol adherence, logical inconsistencies, exclusions (mistakes, diagnoses based on death certificate only (DCO) or autopsy)



# Geographical distribution of CONCORD data

Web-figure 1.36 World (for adults, see Figure 1 in main article)

[Back](#)



|                                    | Age  |       | Sex  |       |          |
|------------------------------------|------|-------|------|-------|----------|
|                                    | 0-14 | 15-19 | Boys | Girls | Combined |
| Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (C3) | ✓    | ✗     | ✗    | ✗     | ✓        |
| Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (C2) | ✓    | ✗     | ✓    | ✓     | ✓        |
| Lymphoid leukaemia (C3)            | ✓    | ✓     | ✗    | ✗     | ✓        |

# Available survival data: CONCORD

| Source                                 | Periods  | Age groups                             | Morphologies  |
|--|--|--|---|
| Ssenyonga et al. (2022)<br>CONCORD-3   | <b>2000 - 2004</b><br><b>2005 - 2009</b><br><b>2010 - 2014</b> | Children (0-14)<br>Adolescents (15-19) | All lymphoid leukaemia combined   |
| Bonaventure et al. (2017)<br>CONCORD-2 | <b>1995 - 1999</b><br>2000 - 2004<br>2005 - 2009               | Children (0-14)                        | International Classification<br>of Childhood Cancer, Third Edition<br>(ICCC-3) group Ia |

- CONCORD-2 survival estimates are used in 38 countries for only the 1995-1999 period, and in 5 countries for the entire CONCORD-2 time period.
- Sex-specific numbers are not available. Bonaventure et al. (2017) showed that sex differences were mostly not significant; however, some speculate that differences exist and are worth further investigation.
- Survival data for precursor-cell (acute) lymphoid leukaemias (ICCC-3 group Ia1) are presented in the published CONCORD-2 data. However, in published CONCORD-3 data, only lymphoid leukemias, all combined (ICCC-3 group Ia), are available. Bonaventure et al. (2017) showed that acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) constitutes a substantial proportion of lymphoid leukemia, and potentially the survival of lymphoid leukemia combined may suffice as a proxy for the survival of ALL.

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# General modeling considerations

1

## **Prioritize high-quality CONCORD data**

Where CONCORD data are available, reliable, and nationally representative, we aim to fit the CONCORD survival data very closely. However, projections will still be necessary for the period of 2017-2022, as the most recent CONCORD data only covers the period from 2000-2014.

2

## **Leverage covariates, geographical and temporal correlation to inform prediction**

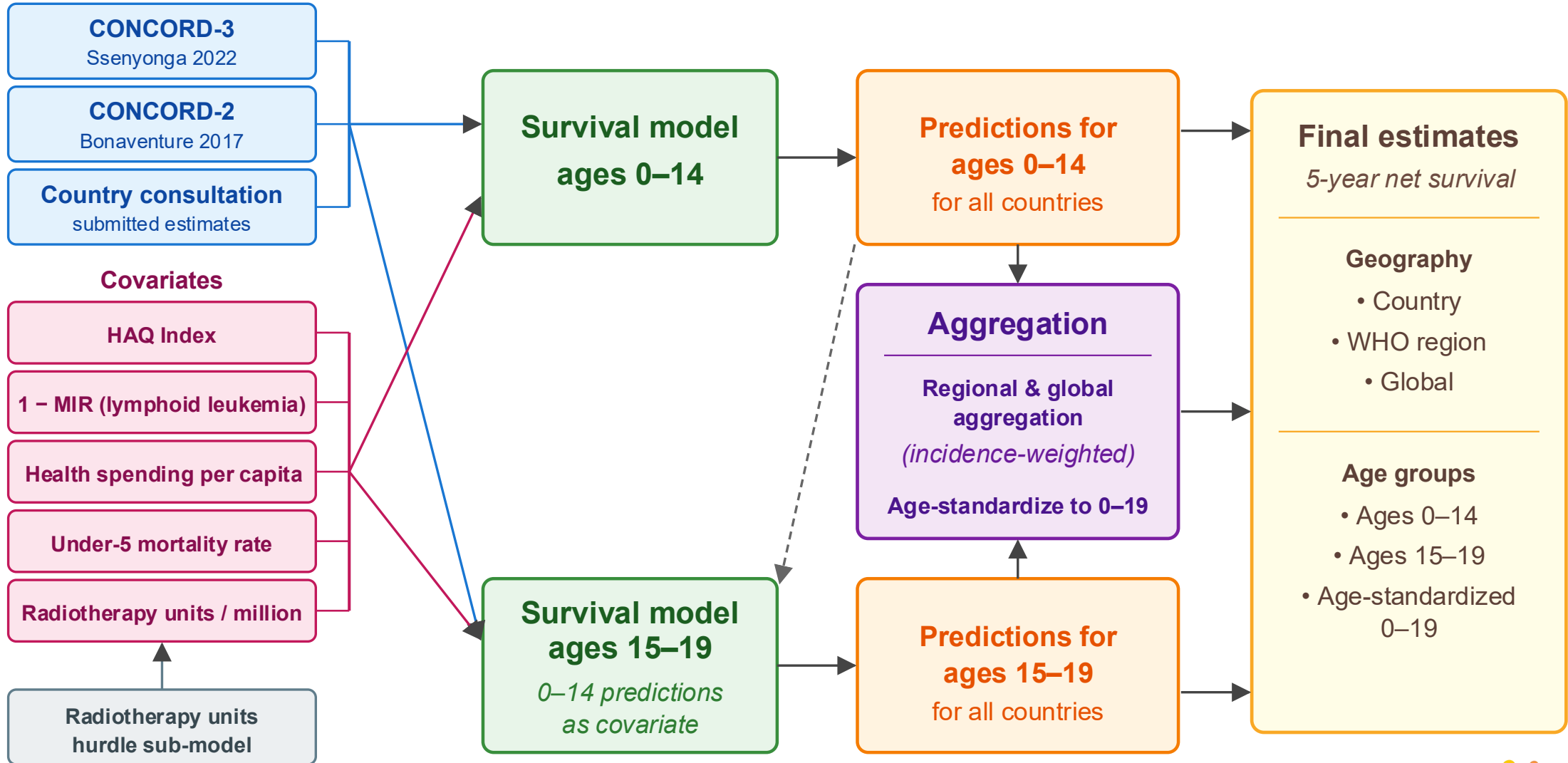
Where no CONCORD data is available, make the best prediction possible using available covariates and global/regional patterns. Thorough assessment of global or regional patterns assumptions in data-sparse countries, with consideration of both temporal and age pattern.

3

## **Combine approaches for countries with poor data quality**

Where CONCORD data are available but has large uncertainty, low reliability or only representative at the subnational level. Careful evaluation of the outcomes balancing the two strategies outlined above will be required.

## PBCR net survival estimates



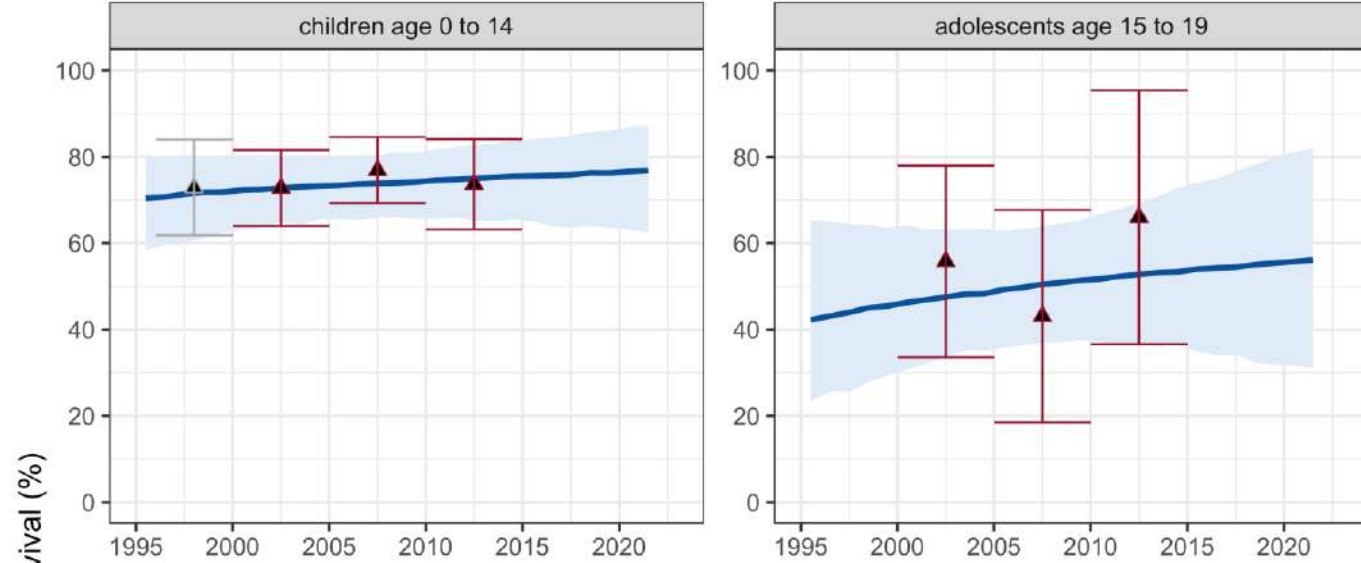
# Covariate selection

| Category                  | Covariate                                    | Source  | Included |
|---------------------------|--|---|----------|
| ALL specific              | <b>ALL 1 – M/I</b>                           | <b>IHME GBD 2023</b>  | ✓        |
| Cancer care               | <b>Radiotherapy unit density</b>             | <b>WHO, DIRAC IAEA, and modeled estimates</b>                             | ✓        |
|                           | Chemotherapy availability                    | EML inclusion, Benefit package inclusion, WHO NCD CCS, Denburg et al 2022 | ✗        |
|                           | Cancer center density                        | WHO NCD CCS   | ✗        |
|                           | CT, MRI, PET or PET/CT density               | IAEA IMAGINE  | ✗        |
| Overall health care       | <b>Health access and quality (HAQ) Index</b> | <b>IHME GBD 2023</b>  | ✓        |
|                           | UHC Service Coverage Index (SDG 3.8.1)       | WHO GMR2023   | ✗        |
|                           | <b>Total health spending per person</b>      | <b>IHME FGH 2023</b> or WHO GHED2024                                      | ✓        |
|                           | HWF density                                  | IHME GBD 2019 or WHO NHWA   | ✗        |
| Socioeconomic development | <b>Under-five mortality rate</b>             | <b>UNIGME 2023</b>  | ✓        |
|                           | LE and HALE                                  | IHME GBD 2021   | ✗        |

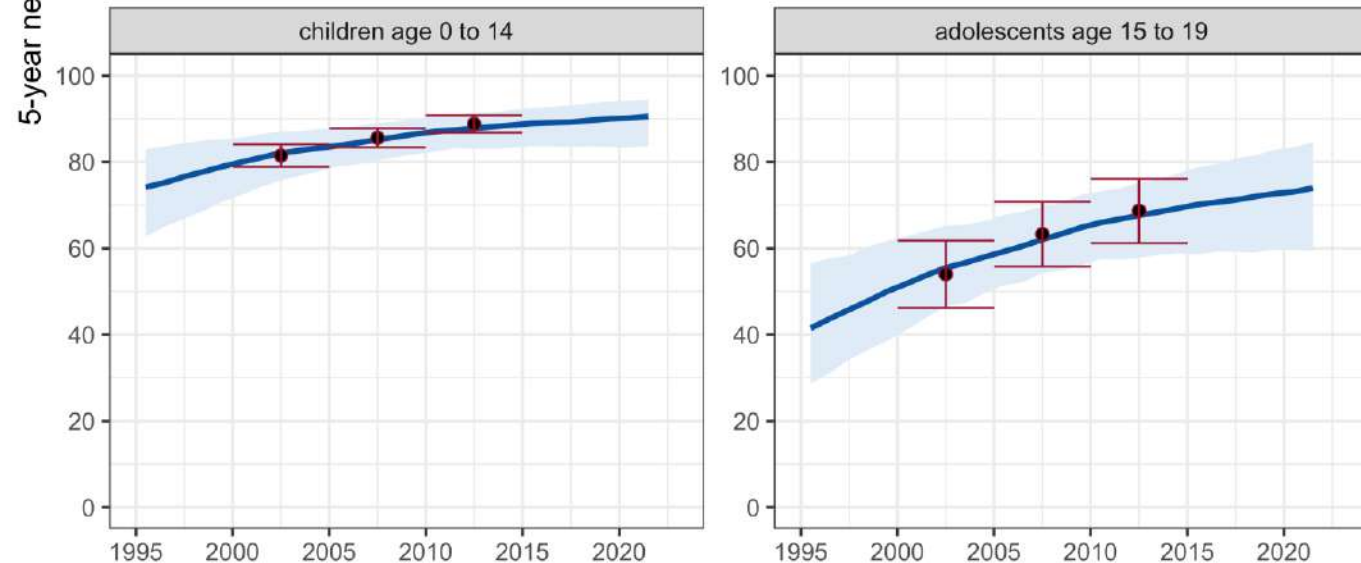
# Example model results

- Examples of countries with relatively coherent data, prediction is still needed to 2021.
- However, data uncertainty sometimes varied by age groups
- In some countries, only subnational data are available. Estimation of survival trends relied on national covariate for adjustment

Example from the Region of the Americas



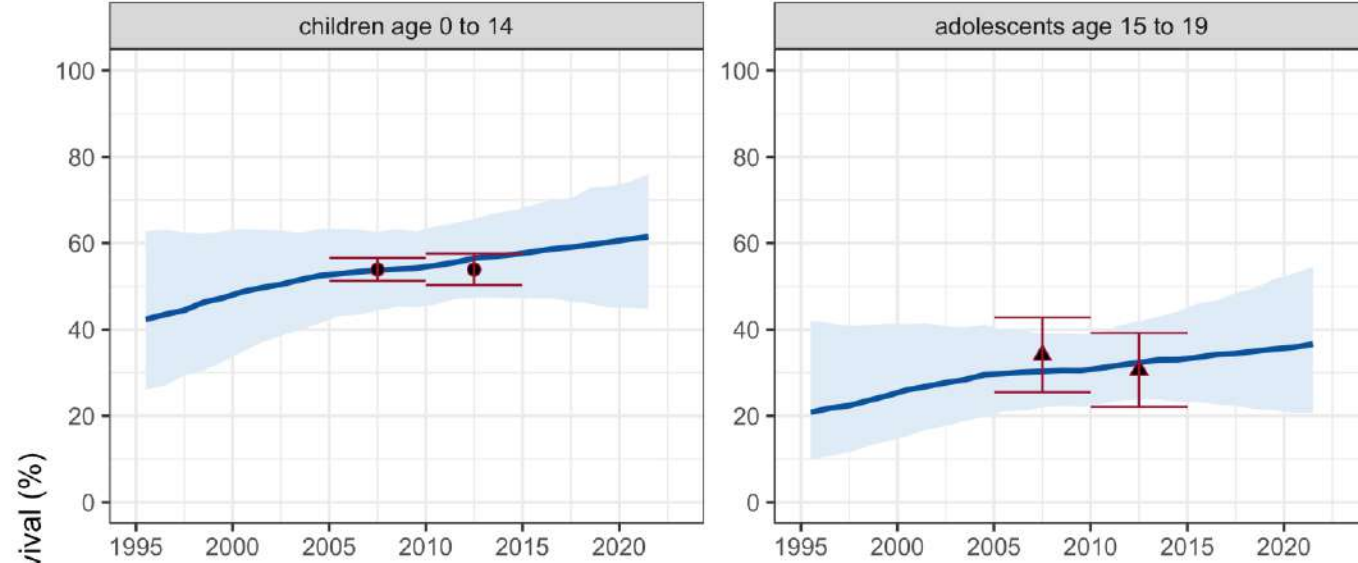
Example from the European Region



# Example model results

- Examples of countries with sparse or limited data.
- The statistical estimation process seeks to reconcile variability and uncertainty in observed data with predictions based on covariates.

Example from the Region of the Americas



Source

- Prediction
- CONCORD-2 (Bonaventure 2017)
- CONCORD-3 (Ssneyonga 2022)

Nationally Representative

- Yes
- ▲ No

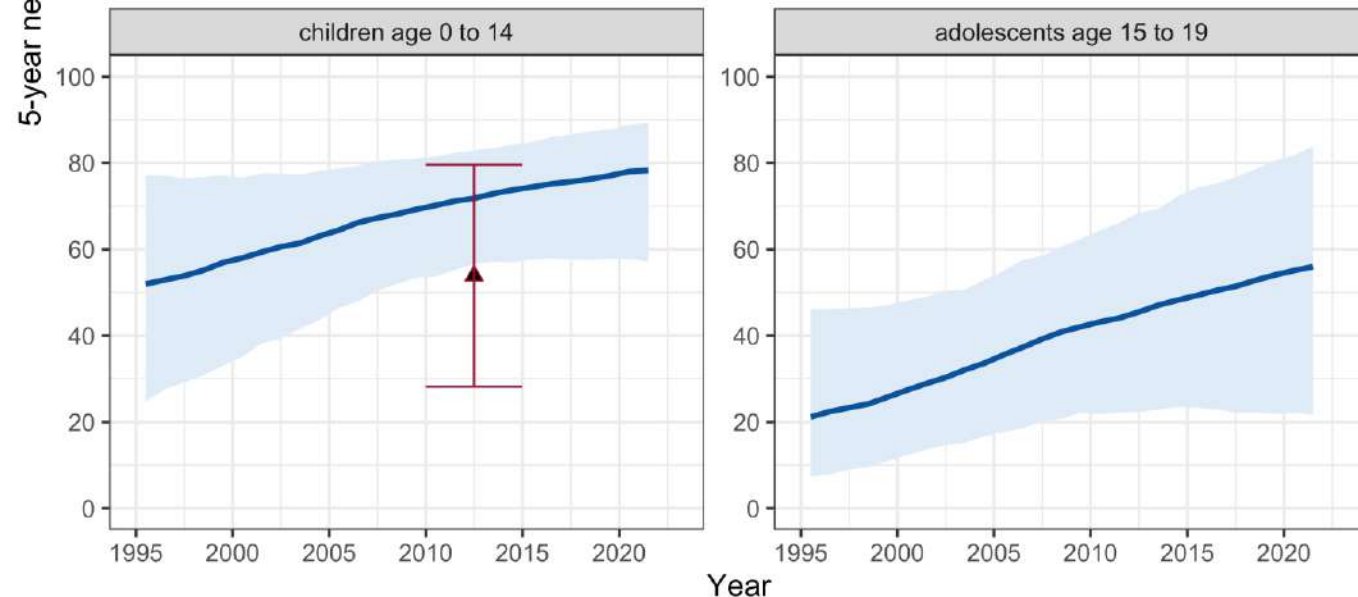
Reliability Warning

- Yes
- No

Uncertainty Interval Width (%)

- 0.95

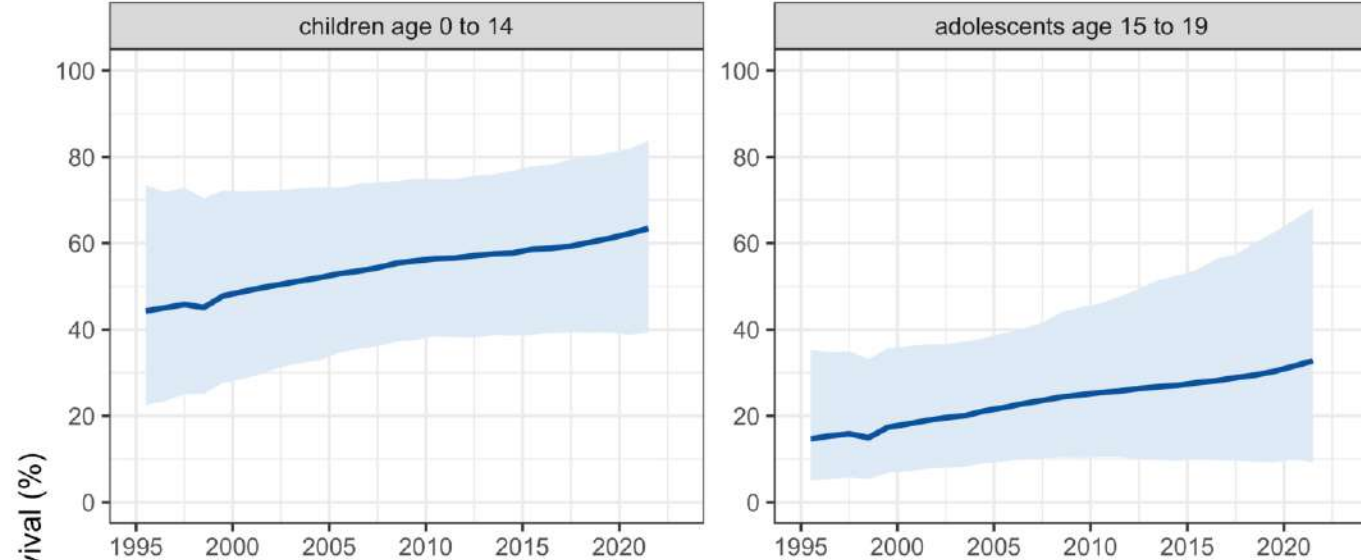
Example from the European Region



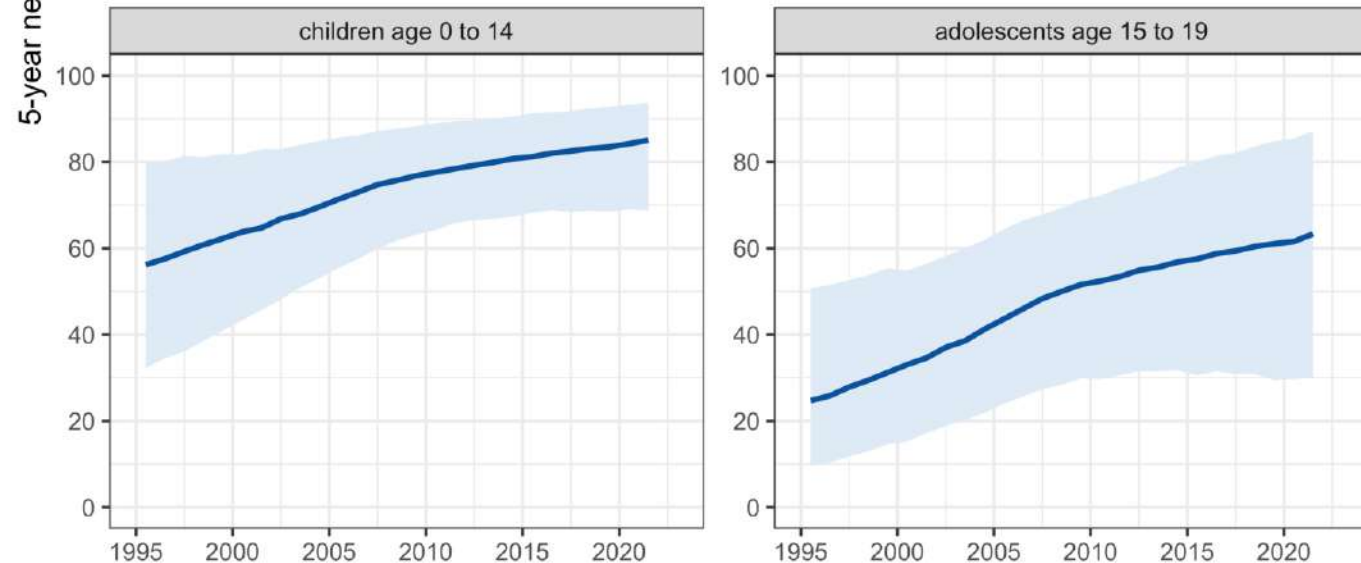
# Example model results

- Examples of countries with no CONCORD survival data.
- Predictions are mostly based on the estimated relationship between survival and covariates.

Example from the Region of the Americas



Example from the European Region



**Source**

- Prediction (Blue line with diamond)
- CONCORD-2 (Bonaventure 2017) (Grey line with circle)
- CONCORD-3 (Ssneyonga 2022) (Red line with circle)

**Nationally Representative**

- Yes (Black circle)
- No (Black triangle)

**Reliability Warning**

- Yes (Yellow circle)
- No (Black circle)

**Uncertainty Interval Width (%)**

- 0.95 (Blue shaded area)



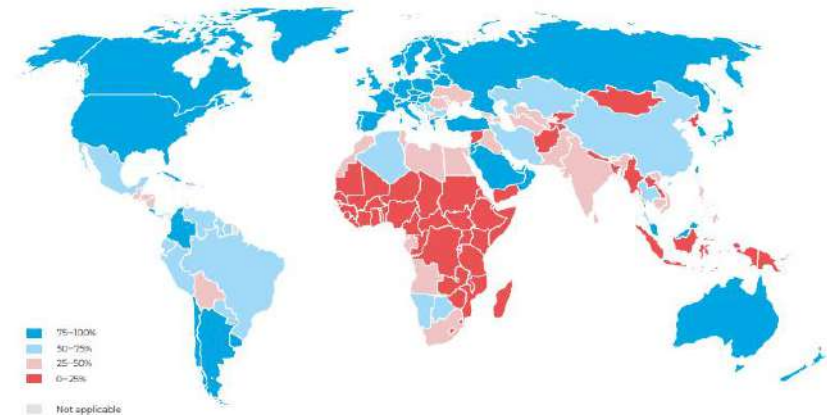
# Country Consultation Process

Complying with Executive Board resolution  
EB107.R8 (2001)

- (1) To establish a technical consultation process, bringing together personnel and perspectives from Member States in different WHO regions, supported jointly by staff from WHO at country, regional and global level.
- (2) To ensure that each Member State is consulted on the best data to be used for assessing health system performance, and is provided advance information on the indicator values that WHO obtains using these data.

## Objectives:

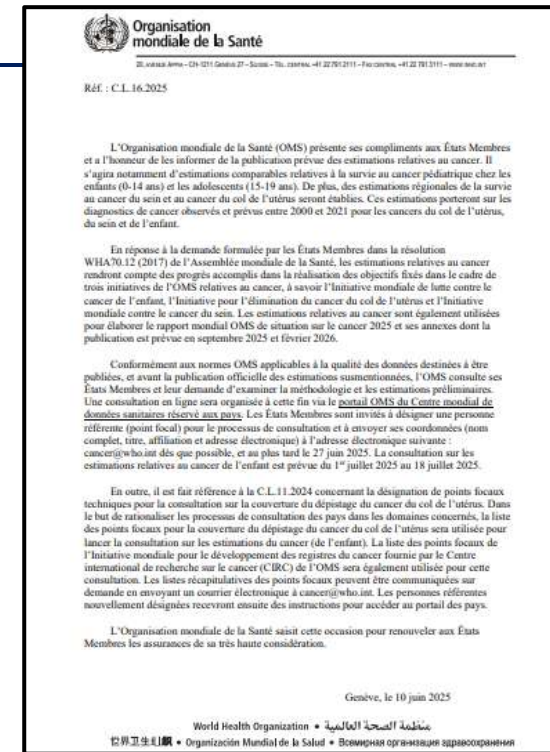
- ✓ **Engage** Member States
- ✓ Request **feedback on methods**
- ✓ Review **data sources**
- ✓ **Compare** Member States data with global estimates
- ✓ Receive **most up to date data** (data call)




Source: CureAll framework: WHO Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer. Increasing access, advancing quality, saving lives. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2021.

# Country Consultation Process

- To ensure transparency, accuracy, and shared ownership, WHO requested Member States to nominate focal points to review their own country estimates through a circular letter (10 June 2025).
- Period to receive nominations 4-6 weeks.
- Consultation opened through the country portal on 1 July 2025.
- Final estimates to be completed by 1 December 2025.




|  Stage Deadlines |
|---|
| <b>Preliminary Estimates</b><br>01 July 2025  |
| <b>Member State Consultation</b><br>10 October 2025   |
| <b>Revised Estimates</b><br>01 December 2025  |

# WHO Country Portal

WHO Global Health Observatory and World Health Data Hub serve as a central platform for compiling, standardizing and disseminating health data to support evidence-based decision making and global monitoring.

Country Portal streamlines data and information exchange between Member States and WHO three levels, supporting bi-directional data exchange, management and consultation.

With the Country Portal, Member State's can review their country estimates, connect with WHO focal points, and follow their countries progress all in their preferred language.



**WORLD HEALTH DATA HUB**

 Country Portal

Country engagement management to streamline workload, improve engagement and seamlessly work across all levels of WHO. Centralized focal points management, traceability, persistence.



Country Portal



<https://countryportal.who.int>

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# Limitations of current approaches and areas to improve

- **Population-based cancer registry data are only available in HMIC.**
  - Areas with the lowest predicted net survival have the most uncertainty.
  - We assume for example that the relationship with HAQ Index extends to lower HAQI values not observed in CONCORD countries
  - **There is a need to strengthen national cancer data registry and surveillance**
- Our model does not take into consideration the relationship with other metrics, incidence and mortality.
  - Incidence and mortality metrics are more abundant
  - Although we have used 1-MIR, it does not properly capture the transition relationship across the three
  - Follow-up analysis can consider this transitional structure to generate more coherent estimates
- Some data are only subnationally representative
  - No adjustment is made in the current analysis. Following convention, we place a caveat in our data presentation
  - The covariates used, however, are nationally representative, hence there could be a potential mismatch
  - To enhance the robustness of subnational analysis, it may be possible to leverage registry specific survival and registry specific U5MR

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## Moderated Panel Discussion

# Measuring Progress Together: Global Efforts to Track Survival and Improve Childhood Cancer Outcomes



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# Advancing Pillar E Leveraging Data to Strengthen Childhood Cancer Programmes Globally



Dr. Catherine Lam

Director, Health Systems Unit, St. Jude Global

Director, WHO Collaborating Centre for Childhood Cancer

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital


# CureAll Pillar E - Foundation to Accelerate Impact



## Pillar E: Evaluation and Monitoring

with quality assurance and information systems

United Nations A/80/L.34

 **General Assembly** Distr.: Limited  
8 December 2023  
Original: English

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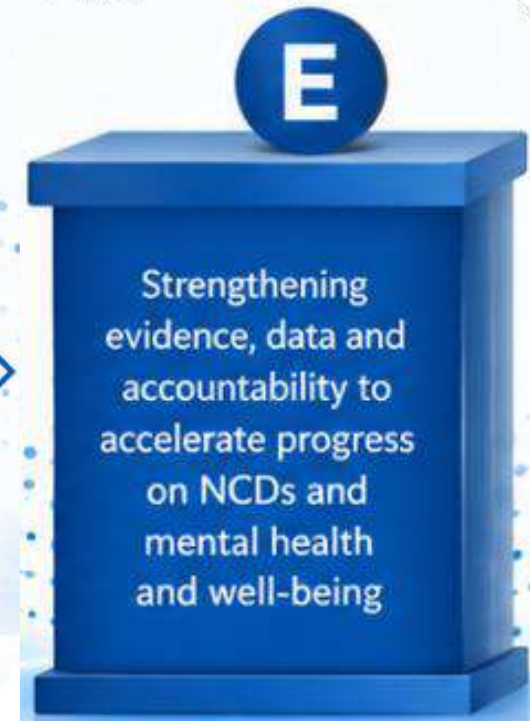

Eightieth session  
Agenda item 127  
Global health and foreign policy

Draft resolution submitted by the President of the General Assembly

**Political declaration of the fourth high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases and the promotion of mental health and well-being**

**“Target: at least 80 per cent of countries have an operational noncommunicable diseases and mental health surveillance and monitoring system, in line with national circumstances, by 2030.”**

and mental health service development and evaluation, as well as regional data-sharing and collaborative surveillance systems, to enhance understanding of regional trends in noncommunicable diseases, mental health conditions and their risk factors, while respecting the right to privacy and promoting data protection;



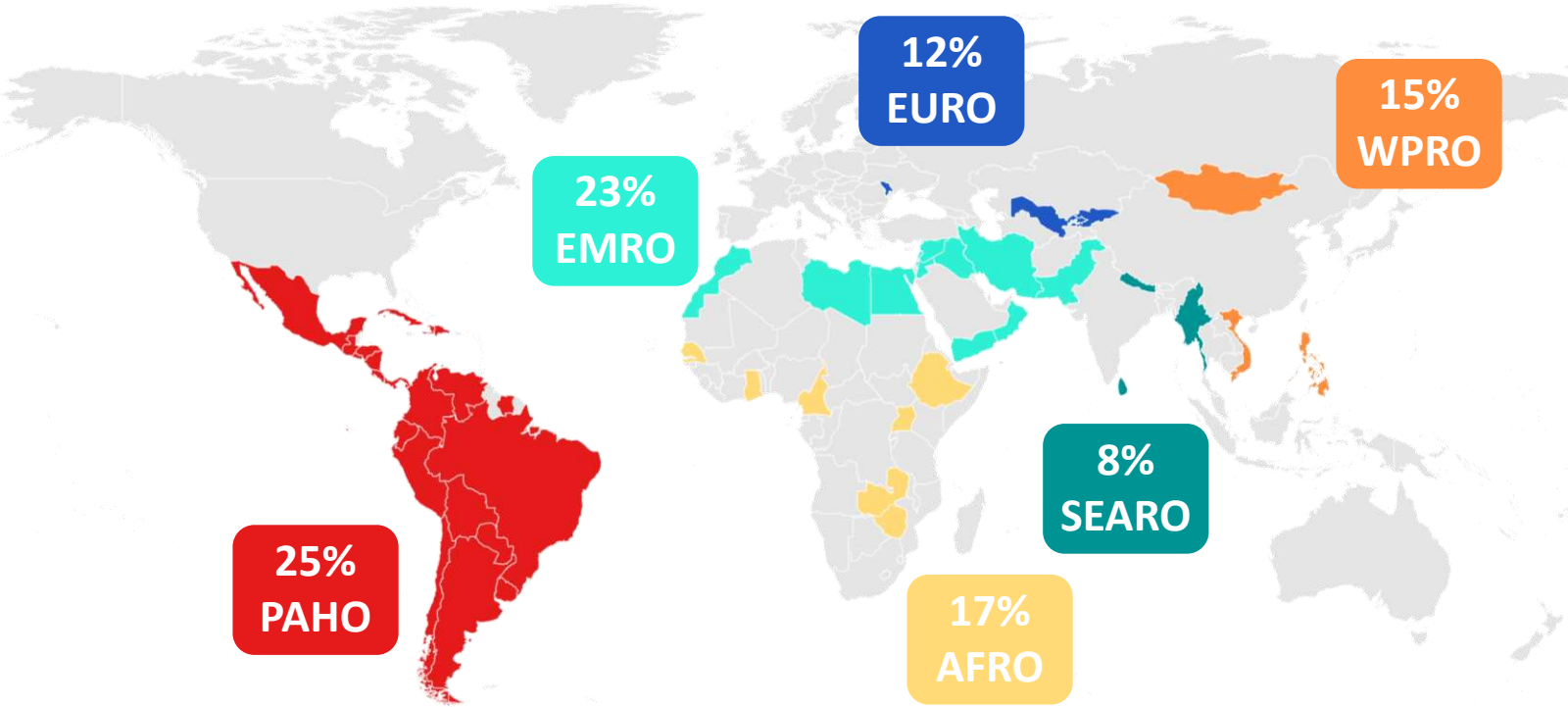
**75** E Pillar Projects

**68** E Pillar Deliverables

**45** E Pillar in Countries

**11%** Of E Pillar projects linked to ChildGICR: IARC & St. Jude Collaboration for Global Cancer Data

## Distribution (%) E Pillar Projects Across WHO Regions



## Top 3 CureAll Core E Pillar Projects

|           |                           |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| <b>39</b> | <b>[P8 - PBCR/HBCR]</b>   |
| <b>16</b> | <b>[P1 – HS Analysis]</b> |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>[P2 – NCCP]</b>        |

# Key Projects and Deliverables Across All 6 WHO Regions



## PBCR



## M&E Frameworks



## Knowledge Generation



### Bolivia 2026

Creation of the First Cancer Registry for Children and Adolescents



**Impact:**

*“Reduction of information gaps for **decision-making**, using timely and **high-quality data**”*



### Cameroon 2023

Development of M & E framework for pediatric oncology centers across Cameroon



### Morocco 2023

Creation of situational assessment: survival and cost evaluation



**Impact:**

*“Evidence generation. Morocco achieved **68% 3 yr-survival rate** in 2020”*



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# The International Benchmarking of Childhood Cancer Survival by Stage (BENCHISTA) study



Professor Kathy Pritchard Jones  
Emeritus Professor of Paediatric Oncology, University College London  
Past-President of SIOP, International Society of Paediatric Oncology  
Co-Lead, BENCHISTA project

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# A Model Population-Based Childhood Cancer Registry in Chennai, India



Dr. Venkatraman Radhakrishnan

Professor Medical & Pediatric Oncology, Cancer Institute, Chennai -India  
PI, Tamil Nadu Population-Based Childhood Cancer Registry



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# Global Collaboration to strengthening childhood cancer registries



Dr Nickhill Bhakta  
Director, Disease Burden and Simulation  
St Jude Children's Research Hospital

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# CONCORD-4: Implementing the Cancer Survival Index for all childhood cancers combined to track global progress toward 2030



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# SURVCAN: Building national capacity for survival data



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Co-lead, IARC Research Team *Childhood Cancer Awareness and Research Evidence*

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## Moderated Panel Discussion

Drawing on your expertise and your organization's efforts, what can be contributed to WHO to support countries to **strengthen & scale up surveillance** capacity to **generate evidence, improve monitoring** and **design policies** to accelerate progress toward **2030** targets?

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# Reflections, way forward and closing remarks

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# Thank you!

For more information please contact :

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