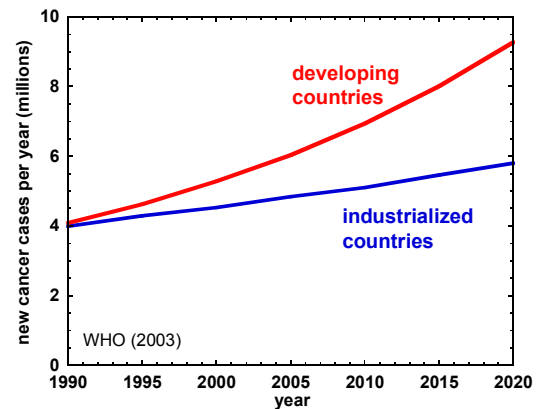


Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy

A SILENT CRISIS: CANCER TREATMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Cancer incidence is increasing dramatically in the developing world. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that nearly 15 million new cancer cases will be diagnosed in the year 2015, most of them in developing countries. Yet the developing world is seriously underserved with the therapies designed to control cancer and improve the quality of life, especially radiotherapy. There is a desperate shortage of equipment and trained staff. Even the existing radiotherapy equipment is often under-utilized due to lack of spare parts, nearly extinguished radiation sources and inadequately trained staff.



PROPOSING COST-EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS

The IAEA Board of Governors endorsed the "Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy" (PACT) in June 2004. It paves the way for the IAEA to seek and direct funds from a wide range of traditional and non-traditional donors to help deliver radiotherapy to countries and people who need it most. WHO has welcomed this initiative.



Upgrading of Kandy General Hospital's cancer treatment facilities in Sri Lanka began in 1998 with assistance from the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme.

Division of Human Health
Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications
International Atomic Energy Agency
<http://www-naweb.iaea.org/nahu/external/>

PACT GOALS

- Raise public awareness.
- Strengthen national programmes for cancer control.
- Enable Member States to design and support sound policies and projects for applying radiotherapy appropriate for their needs.
- Establish radiotherapy centers with adequate radiation safety and protection programmes.
- Establish centres of excellence in developing countries for training and research in radiotherapy.
- Build strategic partnerships promoting cancer therapy.



Saving a mother's life saves a family