

## **IAHPC/WHO Webinar Course on How to Write a Policy Brief 2018 Topic: Palliative Care for Older Persons, January and September 2018**

Participants from x different countries developed evidence based policy briefs on the need for palliative and long time care in their countries –  
Two trainings will be completed by the end of 2018 (**January and September**)

To date, participants from the following countries have submitted policy briefs:  
Burkina Faso

- Cameroon
- Chile
- Ghana
- India
- Nigeria
- Sudan
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- Ukraine

### **Topic of policy briefs in development**

- Health workforce training
- Universal Health Coverage + access to medication
- Community Geriatric Palliative Care
- Older persons living with chronic or non-communicable diseases (NCDs)
- Integration of palliative care into the national health system
- Models of care delivery
- National policy

### **The main issues formulated:**

- Lack of health insurance for palliative care,
- Lack of appropriate services,
- Unavailable + inaccessible + unaffordable essential pain medication.

### **Recommendations are to:**

- Strengthen palliative care education for health care professionals
- Improve regulations on availability of controlled medicines for the management of severe pain
- Scale up community based geriatric palliative care
- Ensure palliative care provision for terminally ill HIV/AIDS patients and those suffering from NCDs
- Integrate palliative care into national health systems
- Improve training of health professionals and rational access to opioid analgesics for older persons
- Develop models of care delivery-primary health care and home care (including nursing homes) for palliative care specific to older persons
- Bridge the gap in higher education of health care professionals (medical and nursing) with respect to death and dying, palliative care, and hospice and geriatrics

**Policy options have been formulated to address:**

- Implementation of palliative care services at the grassroots and community levels, specifically targeting older persons and integrating community geriatric palliative care into National Health Policy;
- Effective use of volunteer community health workers and majority for health providers and the community to support the content of palliative care services;
- Include older HIV/AIDS and cancer patients in planning for Universal Access to health care initiatives;
- Include palliative care for older patients suffering from NCDs including cancer;
- Address barriers palliative care delivery like insufficiency of legislation, lack of oral morphine, lack of training in health care courses;
- Include Palliative care in the National Health Plan and associated budget, in all medical, nursing and social care curricula, in national Universal Health Coverage monitoring;
- Scale up the effective delivery care model for the nation. E.g of Telangana model in India;
- Develop a national palliative care policy.

**Participants trained during the policy brief course include:**

- Head of local/state/national palliative care and ageing organisations
- Oncology Nurses and Hospitalists
- Professors, Senior Lecturers at universities
- Head of hospices

**Note:** Countries vary regarding levels of implementation of palliative care (at national or state/district levels) and vary regarding benefits that can be received from this training:

**The course revealed the need for**

- Awareness raising for better understanding on the part of policymakers, health professionals and local communities when no known hospice-palliative care activity has been identified or reported
- Government support and commitment to scale-up and institutionalize efforts when palliative care provision is isolated or standalone.
- Guidance about integrated palliative care in countries where hospice-palliative care services are at a stage of preliminary integration into mainstream service provision.
- Scale-up, sustainability and UHC in countries with generalized palliative care provision.

The work continues with WHO member states to make palliative care accessible to everyone in need.

