



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE
Advancing Hospice & Palliative Care Worldwide

IAHPC Statement

Agenda Item 15.4

Reaching the Unreached – ANNEX WPR/RC73/10 – 2022-2030

The International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care (IAHPC) is a global membership organization whose vision is a world free from serious health-related suffering. Our mission is to serve as a global platform to inspire, inform and empower individuals, governments and organizations to increase access and optimize the practice of palliative care¹.

The IAHPC welcomes the person-centered approach of the Regional Framework for Reaching the Unreached in the Western Pacific (2022–2030). We appreciate its orientation towards primary healthcare and its intersectional, multi-stakeholder approach. We particularly welcome the inclusion of palliative care in the continuum of services identified in the Framework, as many persons who need palliative care are often invisible to conventional health system approaches. These invisible, often unreached people experience severe health related suffering as they tend to be older, poorer, and have disabilities. They are often children, women, refugees, including climate refugees, and indigenous minorities. Designing health services that can reach them, including by providing palliative care, will help member states in the region reach Goal 3, Target 3.8 (among others) of the 2030 Sustainable Agenda.

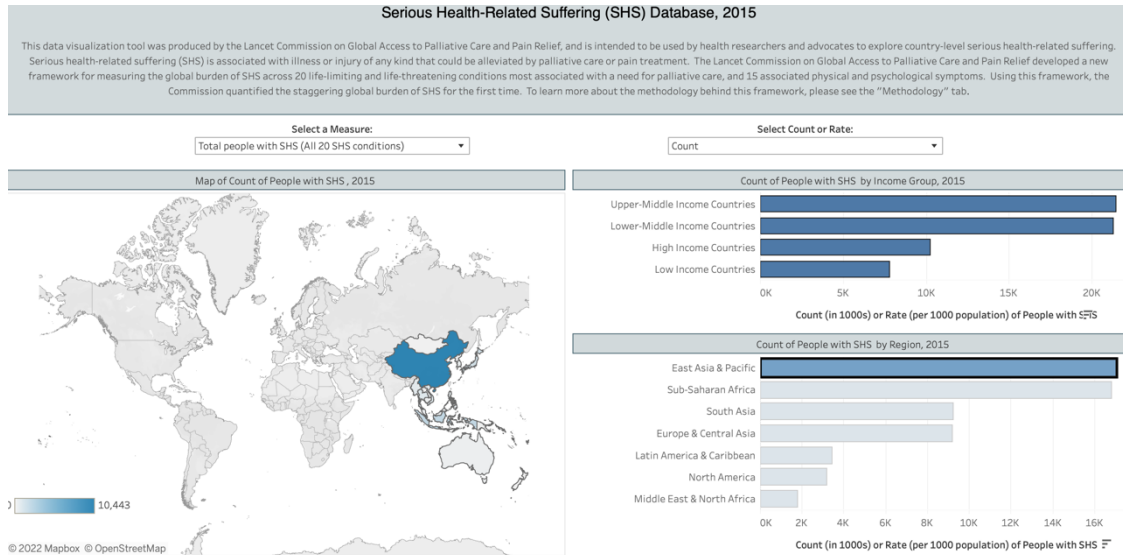
2015 estimates of Severe Health Related Suffering (SHS) in the region are over 17 million people. Seven years, later, given aging populations and the increasing burden of NCDs, it is bound to be higher.

SHS in the region – East Asia and the Pacific 17,024,000 (2015 figures)

¹ <https://hospicecare.com/home/>



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<https://hospicecare.com/what-we-do/resources/global-data-platform-to-calculate-shs-and-palliative-care-need/database/>

The evidence shows that palliative care provided in the community, through primary care services, can reduce catastrophic out of pocket expenses for households, as well as for health systems, by alleviating severe pain and symptoms, promoting honest communication about serious illness, preventing hospitalizations, reducing therapeutic obstinacy and polypharmacy, and supporting family caregivers. Hospital based health systems can develop ambulatory services to visit patients suffering from NCDs and other conditions in their homes, providing the necessary support and medications along with basic orientation for caregivers.

The IAHPCC recommends that WPR member states:

- 1) Integrate palliative care in the academic and practice curricula of all undergraduate health professionals, including nurses, pharmacists and social workers, and offer CMEs to professionals in practice.
- 2) Ensure availability, accessibility, and affordability of essential medicines on the WHO Model List², including the palliative care medicines in Part II. C, and that

² <https://list.essentialmeds.org>



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- a. regulatory agencies of member states consult the Learning Project³ of the International Narcotics Control Board to accurately estimate their annual needs for palliative care medicines.
- 3) Consult the WHO Essential Package of Palliative Care: Interventions, Medicines, Equipment, Human Resources, and Intersectoral Supports⁴ designed to be lowest cost by including only off-patent formulations, affordable essential equipment, and an operational model based on competencies rather than professions, scaled to country income level.

The IAHPC and its members in the region support the Draft Regional Framework and look forward to partnering with governments, the private sector, and other NGOs to help them integrate palliative care into primary care services to reach the unreached. Please feel free to reach out to any member of our delegation and through our website.⁵

³ <https://www.incb.org/incb/en/learning.html>

⁴ <https://dcp-3.org/sites/default/files/chapters/Annex%2012A.%20Essential%20Package%20of%20Palliative%20Care.pdf>

⁵ <https://hospicecare.com/contact-us/katherine-pettus/>