

Figure 3. Framework for action on cancer prevention and control in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region (27)

	Strategic interventions	Indicators
In the area of governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a multi-sectoral strategy and action plan for cancer prevention and control, as part of national NCD response Establish a national multi-sectoral committee for cancer prevention and control Ensure sufficient national budget availability for cancer Define an essential cancer care package¹ and identify financing mechanisms to reduce out-of-pocket expenditure Appoint a National Cancer Control Programme manager 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An operational, funded national multi-sectoral strategy/ action plan encompassing all areas of cancer prevention and control.
In the area of prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy lifestyle interventions in the areas of tobacco control, physical activity, healthy diet and alcohol; in-line with the Regional NCD Framework Ensure vaccination against hepatitis B in infancy Ensure Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination in preadolescents in countries with high risk of cervical cancer Eliminate or reduce exposure to occupational and environmental carcinogens, such as asbestos 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five demand-reduction measures of the WHO FTFC² Four measures to reduce unhealthy diet³ At least one national public awareness campaign on diet/ physical activity, within the last 5 years Vaccination coverage against hepatitis B virus monitored by the number of third doses of Hep-B vaccine (HepB3) administered to infants⁴ HPV vaccination coverage
In the area of early detection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop, implement and update evidence-based, nationally approved guidelines/protocols/standards for the early detection of priority cancers, with a focus on early diagnosis Promote community-awareness about the early symptoms of priority cancers⁵ Promote health professional education on early signs and symptoms of common cancers, for prompt referral of symptomatic patients to diagnostic and treatment services Ensure availability, affordability and accessibility of diagnostic tests for suspected cases Periodically assess effectiveness of early diagnosis and screening programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Availability of evidence-based, nationally approved guidelines for early detection of priority cancers⁶ Proportion of cancer patients diagnosed in early stages Reduction in cancer mortality rates for which early detection programmes have been introduced Proportion of cancer patients who receive timely diagnosis within one month of symptomatic presentation at primary health care services Proportion of women between the ages of 30–49 screened for cervical cancer at least once, or more often, and for lower or higher age groups according to national programmes or policies⁴
In the area of management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop, implement and update evidence-based, nationally approved guidelines/protocols/standards for management of priority cancers Assess the human resource requirements and develop plans to scale up to meet local needs Ensure availability, affordability and accessibility of an essential cancer care package¹ Strengthen coordination of referral system with targets to reduce delays to diagnosis and treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Availability of evidence-based guidelines/protocols/standards for management of priority cancers Proportion of patients who complete a course of prescribed treatment Availability of national human resources strategies and plans
In the area of palliative care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure inclusion of palliative care within national cancer control plans Develop, implement and update evidence-based, nationally approved guidelines/protocols/standards for palliative care Introduce palliative care into the curricula of healthcare professionals Develop affordable, multidisciplinary integrated palliative care services, including pain relief, psychosocial and spiritual support, in both hospital and community settings Ensure availability and accessibility of opioids, analgesics and other essential palliative care medicines, addressing legal and regulatory barriers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Availability of national guidelines/protocols/standards for palliative care Access to palliative care assessed by morphine-equivalent consumption of strong opioid analgesics (excluding methadone) per death from cancer⁴ Availability of training programmes for healthcare professionals
In the area of surveillance and research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish and strengthen hospital- and population-based cancer registries that cover a population not less than one million Develop a system to monitor quality of care and the performance of national cancer control programmes Develop and implement a cancer research plan relevant to country needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cancer incidence, by type of cancer, per 100 000 population⁴ Availability of progress / gap analysis on implementation of national cancer control plan Number of peer reviewed publications related to cancer

¹ Cancer care package includes diagnostic procedures, medicines and technologies, surgery and radiotherapy, and survivorship care

² Tobacco demand reduction measures, WHO NCD Progress monitor 2017: Increased excise taxes and prices; smoke-free policies; large graphic health warnings/plain packaging; bans on advertising, promotion and sponsorship; mass media campaigns

³ Unhealthy diet reduction measures, WHO NCD Progress monitor 2017: salt/sodium policies; saturated fatty acids and trans-fats policies; marketing to children restrictions; marketing of breast-milk substitutes restrictions

⁴ These are from the WHO 25 indicators of the Global Monitoring Framework on NCDs (<http://www.who.int/nmh/ncd-tools/indicators-definition/en/>)

⁵ Priority cancers for early detection can be selected based how amenable they are to early detection, and on their incidence (and projected future incidence) within the country