Cancer in Conflict Workstream

AUB - GHI

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Background and Context

- Low survival rate: 40% in year 2011

- Low quality data:
  - No auditable quality control data
  - No practice-based research
  - Lack of coordination
  - Lack of policies
Theoretical Framework

Capacity building for cancer in conflict settings (MENA)

Systems level: Policy makers
Partnerships with MOH, WHO, NGOs

Team and individual level: Practitioners
Training courses and modules in cancer management in conflict settings
# Achievements in Year 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deliverables</th>
<th>Achievements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional research on breast cancer and breast cancer surgery</td>
<td>Ongoing scoping review, data abstraction phase, plan to finish by October-November</td>
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<tr>
<td>Needs assessments for building capacity on cancer in conflict</td>
<td>Topic guide, IRB application, list of key informants, piloting phase</td>
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<tr>
<td>Availability of courses and trainings</td>
<td>Search completed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cancer management workshop in Gaza</td>
<td>In progress – Scheduled for November 2018</td>
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<td>Clinical epidemiology: Determine additional morbidity associated with absence of radiotherapy</td>
<td>Tentative: requesting on data from Gaza MOH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dialogue between MOH Iraq/ Cancer registry/physicians</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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<td>Efficacy of VAR in improving diagnosis</td>
<td>None</td>
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Challenges in Year 1

• Visits to Gaza not facilitated, entries to Gaza, timing issue
• MOU with MOPH not signed

• Different approaches:
  • Request Skype meeting with Gaza team
  • Alternatively, work closely with MOH Lebanon to build capacity on cancer research (improve data collection methods, training registrars on research skills...
Objectives for Year 2

Objectives

• Facilitate cancer registries in the region
• Draft paper on multi-causality in breast cancer outcome
• Draft paper on regional MDT Networks mediated by VAR software on outcomes of breast cancer

Team and development of courses

• Contact key stakeholders
• Develop scientific committee including facilitators and content experts
Objectives for Years 3 and 4

1. Improve practice-based research and data generation for local capacity building

2. Improve the technical capacity of cancer care of health professionals by offering basic and specialized courses for conflict settings.

3. Courses will be offered online, others in the form of face-to-face workshops/trainings (can use GHI GHLAD platform, CREEW)
Objectives for Years 3 and 4

• Courses on stream:
  • Research training modules/courses (Basics research skills)
  • Specialized Training modules/courses: radiological detection, pathological diagnosis, onco-plastic surgery, nursing aspects of breast cancer care
  • Training modules/courses: pain management and palliative care in coordination with Islamic University and MSF
Challenges for Years 3 and 4

**Structural**
- Funding
- Availability of trainers to deliver the courses
- Incentive for health professionals to attend courses
- Accreditation
- Break out of armed conflict

**Workstream specific challenges**
- Fragmented nature of health system, augmented in cancer care
- Improving capacity may not translate to direct improvement in health system performance and cancer care (sustainability)
- Measuring impact of capacity building by number of publications, reports (indicators)
Thank you