




The Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance is an international NGO focusing exclusively on hospice and palliative care development globally. We are an alliance of 430 national and regional hospice and palliative care and affiliate organisations in 104 countries. Our mission is to bring together the global palliative care community to improve well-being and reduce unnecessary suffering for those in need of palliative care.

We believe no one with a life-limiting condition should live or die with unnecessary pain and distress. The solution is palliative care: ‘an approach that improves the quality of life of patients (adults and children) and their families/carers who are facing problems associated with life-threatening illness or serious health-related suffering.

Palliative care prevents and relieves suffering through the early identification, correct assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, whether physical, psychosocial or spiritual’ (World Health Organisation).



In many parts of the world, palliative care is inadequate, inequitable or non-existent

According to research by WHPCA and WHO in the **Global Atlas of Palliative Care** ... of the 60 million patients needing palliative care annually:

88%	78%
do not receive it	live in low- or middle-income countries

‘The need for palliative care has never been greater and is increasing at a rapid pace ... By 2060 the need for palliative care at the end of life is expected to double’

As part of setting Sustainable Development Goals, nations agreed to a target of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). This was formally reaffirmed by the UN in 2019.

Universal Health Coverage requires countries to develop a universally accessible health system for all citizens, one that meets population health needs and priorities. UHC means that ‘all individuals and communities receive the health services they need without suffering financial hardship’.

Palliative care should be universally available. It is a basic human right. Critically, UHC should extend to ‘the full spectrum of essential, quality health services, from health promotion to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care across the life course’ (WHO). Palliative care is not just about end of life care but about improving quality of life throughout the whole trajectory of illness.

‘We cannot achieve universal health coverage without palliative care’

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General, WHO

WHPCA strategic objectives

-  **Work collaboratively** to grow as a strong regional and national member-driven global alliance in meaningful partnership with others
-  **Build a movement** of people living with palliative care needs, carers, civil society, government and academia to improve understanding and demand for palliative care as part of UHC
-  **Build models of palliative care** working with our member organizations to increase funding and technical assistance worldwide to increase access to palliative care as part of UHC
-  **Influence change** by including palliative care in UHC basic packages of care in low and middle-income countries
-  **Track progress** to ensure that palliative care progress is monitored by policy-makers using standardized, tested, and reliable WHO national indicators