

## Strengthening cancer control in Venezuela: Key insights from the imPACT Review

Following a request received from the Minister of Health of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in October 2022, an imPACT Review was conducted from April to December 2023 by the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT) of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the World Health Organization (WHO), and International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). The imPACT Review was organized within the framework of the WHO-IAEA Joint Programme on Cancer Control. A team of international experts, nominated by the IAEA, WHO and IARC, held technical discussions with key stakeholders, and visited the principal cancer facilities in the country.

The general objectives of the imPACT review to Venezuela were to:

- Examine the current state of the cancer prevention and control system (policy, regulation, infrastructure, technology, human resource, practices).
- Identify the needs to be met in order to provide a comprehensive approach to cancer (planning and governance, surveillance and registration, prevention, early detection, diagnosis, treatment, palliative care).

- To provide an overview of the national infrastructure for radiation safety and security of radioactive sources in medical practices.
- Develop sustainable programmatic recommendations for strengthening the cancer prevention and control system (highlighting the support that can be provided from the three agencies).

The six-days long imPACT mission in the country took place from 22 May to 27 May 2023. Delegates and experts from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the International Agency for the Research on Cancer (IARC) conducted visits to medical facilities, interviews with key stakeholders, and discussions with governmental authorities. The report with findings and recommendations was presented to national authorities on 17 January 2024 to contribute to Venezuela's efforts by the Ministry of People's Power for Health (MPPS), Ministry of Popular Power for Science and Technology (MINCYT) and the Venezuelan Vice-Presidency for Science, Technology, Education and Health (VPS-CTSE) to develop a comprehensive and evidence-based strategy to for cancer care services.



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