



## Facts / Talking Points

### PALLIATIVE CARE:

Palliative Care is an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing problems associated with life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering, the early identification and impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, physical, psychosocial and spiritual (World Health Organization).

People should be able to access hospice and palliative care as soon as they are diagnosed with a life-limiting condition, and not just at the end of life. Ensuring that people are living with conditions in comfort and without distress is as important as ensuring a good death. The organization and provision of palliative care has to be adapted to the country, culture and context if the needs of the person requiring care and their family members are to be met (World Hospice and Palliative Care Association).

### THE NEED:

Worldwide, only 14% of people who need palliative care currently receive it. 78% of people who need hospice and palliative care live in low- and middle-income countries. For children, 98% of those needing palliative care live in low- and middle-income countries with nearly half of them living in Africa.

The global need for palliative care will continue to grow as a result of the rising burden of noncommunicable diseases and ageing populations. A lack of training and awareness of palliative care among health professionals is a major barrier to improving access, especially in low resource settings where access to any health professional is limited.

Pain treatment is a key part of hospice and palliative care as pain is one of the most common and distressing symptoms that people with serious illness and at the end of life face. To treat a patient's pain, the simplest, cheapest and most effective method is the use of oral morphine. Unfortunately, it is rarely available in many countries. This is due to fears of addiction, over regulation and lack of training and understanding, and lack of resources. Approximately 18 million people die in unnecessary pain and distress each year.

### WHO WE ARE:

Global Partners in Care envisions a world where individuals and families facing serious illness, death, and grief have access to essential services that afford comfort and dignity – which are human rights. **Global Partners in Care supports compassionate care where the need is great and resources are few by enhancing access to hospice and palliative care worldwide.**

### WHAT WE DO:

Global Partners in Care supports access to compassionate care by establishing collaborative partnerships, supporting research and education, and raising awareness of the global need for access to essential hospice and palliative care services.

- Our Partnership Program enables US Partners working in hospice and palliative care to engage with sister organizations in low-resource settings. Partners engage in capacity-building, education, and fundraising, as well as building relationships that enrich each other's work and lives.



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- Global Partners in Care recognizes advancing research and growing opportunities for learning are an important aspect of enhancing access to quality palliative care globally. We partner with universities and other research institutions to support global palliative care research. We support scholarships through our partner organizations in low-resource settings to support the training and education of the next leaders in palliative care provision and research. We also seek to educate US students, partners and potential stakeholders as advocates for palliative care – in their own communities, but especially in areas of the world where resources are limited and the need is great.
- Global Partners in Care is committed to working collaboratively with our partnership organizations, national associations and international organizations working to enhance access to hospice and palliative care globally.

### **OUR IMPACT:**

Global Partners in Care has a strong network of dedicated individuals and organizations working to enhance palliative care across the globe. Through our Partnership Program, we support the delivery of palliative care services that improve the quality of living for tens of thousands of people annually. Since 2004, our US partners have sent more than \$5.5 million dollars to their partner organizations in Africa and Asia. Additionally, these relationships have a positive, lasting impact on the individuals and organizations involved.

Learn more about Global Partners in Care at: [globalpartnersincare.org](http://globalpartnersincare.org)