

# Unmet need and living with and beyond cancer in Africa

## Various Institutions\*

**OVERVIEW:** In Ghana and Tanzania there are a lack of support services for people living with and beyond BC. This initiative was developed to assess the unmet needs of women following primary BC treatment, and determine the feasibility of implementing a recovery package (holistic needs assessment, care plan and treatment summary) for these patients.



### Area of focus:

Educating patients & HCPs about ABC/mBC



### Target population:

Nurses working with patients with BC in Ghana and Tanzania

**Objectives:** Explore the unmet needs of women with BC to assess the feasibility of implementing a recovery package. Build research capacity and develop collaborations between three research centres

### Unmet needs addressed:

- Lack of services and support for people living with and beyond cancer in Tanzania and Ghana
- Late diagnosis at ABC/mBC stage due to cultural beliefs/values regarding BC
- Many physical, psychological, social, spiritual, or financial unmet needs at the end of primary treatment

### Key components:

- Focus groups to assess HCP experience, knowledge & skills, resources, current practice, and challenges
- Translation and adaptation of the UK holistic needs assessment (HNA) tool to be culturally sensitive
- Training of local nurses to conduct HNAs, and write care plans and treatment summaries
- Ongoing support via Zoom calls and data gathered stored in a macro database for statistical analysis

**Challenges:** Nurses were unfamiliar with exploring patient needs for living well after cancer and required workshops and mentoring. Focus groups were organised to support the UK team to become more sensitive to African culture

**Outcomes:** The initiative trained 19 nurses, who have used the HNA with 500 patients. The research findings have been presented at various conferences

**Development:** Developed by a core team of 5 Royal Marsden staff, 2 from ORCI and 3 from PLH

**Cost:** >€30,000 (Global Challenge Research Fund grant through the Institute of Cancer Research)

**Timeline:** The initiative ran for 1 year

**Targeted to reach:** >300



\*Institute of Cancer Research, Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI), Peace and Love Hospital (PLH)/ Breast Care International

### For more information:

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Based on written submission from initiative leads, 2020. The Hard-to-Reach ABC/mBC Communities Toolkit was developed as a collaboration between Pfizer Oncology and the ABC Global Alliance, with funding and support provided by Pfizer. ABC Global Alliance members and Pfizer colleagues were invited to submit breast cancer community-based initiatives that address specific needs of underserved patient populations with advanced/metastatic breast cancer. Initiatives were evaluated against criteria determined by a steering committee with members from both Pfizer and the ABC Global Alliance. Initiatives were selected for inclusion in the toolkit to highlight best practices in addressing the unique needs of this patient population. All organizations who submitted their initiatives for consideration have provided permission for the initiative information to be included in the toolkit and shared publicly. Pfizer and the ABC Global Alliance bear no responsibility for the contents of the toolkit.



Ethnic, religious, indigenous/native population and/or other minorities



Low income patients



Older patients



Rural patients



Low health knowledge patients

