IMPROVING ACCESS TO PALLIATIVE CARE

WHAT IS PALLIATIVE CARE?

It is care for patients with life-threatening illnesses & their families
It can be given in homes, health centres, hospitals and hospices
It improves quality of life

WHEN IS PALLIATIVE CARE NEEDED?

It benefits health systems by reducing unnecessary hospital admissions
It relieves physical, psychosocial & spiritual suffering
It can be done by many types of health professionals & volunteers

WHO NEEDS IT?

Of the 40 million people who need palliative care each year:

- 39% have Cardiovascular diseases
- 34% have Cancer
- 10% have Chronic lung diseases
- 6% have HIV/AIDS
- 5% have Diabetes

WHAT ARE THE GAPS?

- 86% of people who need palliative care do not receive it
- 83% of the world’s population lack access to pain relief
- 98% of children needing palliative care live in low and middle income countries

WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS?

- Poor public awareness of how palliative care can help
- Cultural & social barriers, such as beliefs about pain and dying
- Insufficient skills and capacities of health workers
- Overly restrictive regulations for opioid pain relief

WHAT CAN COUNTRIES DO?

Implement the 2014 World Health Assembly Resolution 67.19 on palliative care, by:

INTEGRATING PALLIATIVE CARE INTO NATIONAL HEALTH POLICIES

- Revise laws & processes to improve access to opioid pain relief
- Include palliative care in the training for health workers
- Provide palliative care services, including through primary health care centres and homes