THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON CANCER CARE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Latin America, accounting for more than 700 thousand deaths in 2020.

Key findings:

Provision of services for cancer care

- **80% of people** reported interruptions in cancer care and prevention activities, due to health systems overload.
- **96% decrease in mammograms** due to cautionary measures such as quarantines, as well as financial limitations; these are necessary tests to detect early-stage disease.

Economic impact

- **Nearly 50% of the total estimated economic impact** is for breast cancer, representing a cost of 3.9 billion dollars.
- **$5 billion dollars** is the economic impact created by diagnosis and treatment delay throughout the region, according to the analysis.

Mortality

- **93% of doctors** reported that, at the time of diagnosis, their patients already had an advanced stage of cancer.

How to improve these results?

- **Governments must recognize the burden generated by the pandemic in cancer care to implement comprehensive strategies to mitigate this impact.**
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- **Governments** should implement programs to prepare patients to face the new reality.
- **Prioritize early diagnosis and timely and continued access to treatment.**

The report sheds light on some measures that can be implemented to strengthen health systems and improve their response capacity:

To access the full report, click on the following link.