

EGYPT



# BRIDGING THE GAP

## Enhancing Equitable Access & Innovation in Lung Cancer Care in Egypt

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Egypt is showing commendable progress in the area of lung cancer care, driven by government initiatives and collaborations with international stakeholders. While certain systemic challenges persist—especially in early detection and rural access—recent advancements provide a strong foundation for policy-driven transformation.

This policy brief outlines the current landscape, highlights core gaps, and recommends strategic actions to accelerate progress toward a more equitable and effective lung cancer care system.



### INTRODUCTION

#### Momentum for Change Amid Persistent Disparities

Lung cancer continues to pose a growing public health burden in Egypt, with survival rates remaining suboptimal due to late-stage diagnoses. Still, the country stands out in the African region for its **Level 2 - Developing** maturity, owing to a combination of public sector commitment, institutional capacity, and international cooperation.

Institutions like the National Cancer Institute and the 57357 Children's Cancer Hospital are leading the charge, while national initiatives such as the 100 Million Healthy Lives campaign demonstrate an increasing focus on public awareness. To fully capitalize on these advancements, sustained investment and policy attention are essential.



Egypt Ranks at Level 2 – Lung Cancer Care Developing Maturity



# LUNG CANCER IN EGYPT

## Current Landscape and Strategic Gaps

Pillar	Current Status	Strength	Policy Action
Early Detection & Diagnosis	CT scan availability is rising, but routine lung cancer screening is still rare, especially in rural and underserved communities.	Government is showing commitment through initiatives like 100 Million Healthy Lives, which can be scaled further.	Launch a structured national screening program targeting high-risk populations, particularly smokers and individuals with occupational exposure.
Biomarker & Molecular Testing	Testing is available at major institutions but lacks standardization and remains limited outside metropolitan hubs.	Government-pharma collaborations have supported clinical trials in targeted therapies.	Expand molecular diagnostic services and incorporate them into public health coverage schemes to make them affordable and accessible nationwide.
Treatment Access	Government subsidies have improved access in urban centers, but high treatment costs and logistical barriers persist for rural populations.	Public hospitals like the National Cancer Institute offer subsidized care to many.	Broaden subsidy coverage and improve treatment distribution by decentralizing cancer care services to include more regional and rural facilities.
Clinical Guidelines	Guidelines exist in tertiary hospitals but are inconsistently applied across public and private sectors.	Growing alignment with international standards in major cancer hospitals.	Establish national treatment guidelines & enforce their use across healthcare settings to ensure uniformity & quality in lung cancer management.
Palliative & Survivorship Care	Egypt has a relatively more developed palliative care system compared to many peers in the region, yet gaps remain in rural outreach & pain management.	Organizations like the Baheya Foundation provide specialized services and pain management.	Increase investment in training for palliative care providers & ensure widespread availability of essential medications, including opioids, in all governorates.





## CONCLUSION & Call to Action

Egypt stands at a pivotal moment in the evolution of its lung cancer care system. Encouraging signs of progress, such as increased public health engagement and institutional capacity, must be matched with strategic reforms to address lingering disparities.

With survival rates still hampered by late diagnosis and inconsistent treatment access, now is the time for bold, system-wide actions.



Egypt has made notable strides in its fight against lung cancer, offering a foundation upon which a more inclusive and effective care system can be built. By acting decisively on the identified policy priorities—early detection, molecular diagnostics, access expansion, clinical standardization, and palliative care—Egypt can further reduce the lung cancer burden and position itself as a regional leader in oncology reform.