International Cancer Patient Coalition

Uganda

Breast Cancer Factsheet: Insights & Key Developments

Key Insights on Breast Cancer Care and Infrastructure

Core Pillars:

1. Infrastructure
2. Treatment Access, Research Funding and Awareness Campaigns
3. Survival Rates, Early Detection and Palliative Care
4. Utilization of Biomarkers
5. Clinical Guidelines
6. Reimbursement
7. Breast Cancer Screening

Breast cancer remains one of the most prevalent cancers worldwide, affecting millions of individuals each year. Despite advancements in diagnostics, treatment, and awareness, disparities in access to care, molecular testing, and specialized centers persist.

This factsheet provides a comprehensive overview of key pillars shaping breast cancer care, including specialized infrastructure, treatment accessibility, research funding, early detection, and palliative care.

- Incidence Rate: Approximately 21.3 per 100,000 women.
- Mortality Rate: Around 10.3 per 100,000 women.
- Trend Over Time: Incidence doubled from 11 to 22 per 100,000 women between 1961 and 1995.
- Annual Increase: Cases have been increasing by 5.2% annually over the past 15 years.
- Stage at Diagnosis: Up to 89% of cases are diagnosed at late stages (III or IV).
- National Cancer Statistics: Breast cancer is among the leading cancers in Uganda, with approximately 35,968 new cancer cases and 24,629 cancer-related deaths annually across all cancers.

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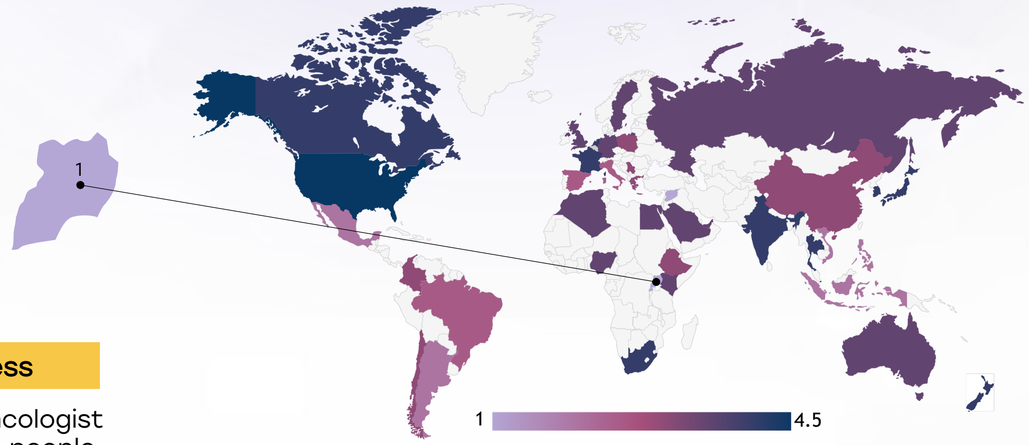
Infrastructure



Strengths

- Uganda Cancer Institute serves as the national referral center.
- International partnerships are working to expand capabilities.

Weakness

- Only one oncologist per 5 million people.
- Limited molecular testing and radiotherapy.

Opportunity

- Scale up regional cancer centers (e.g., Gulu, Arua, Mbarara).

Threats

- Rural patients face extreme delays and travel burdens.

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5. Advanced nationwide infrastructure, widespread availability in public and private sectors, integration with clinical practice.

4. Strong infrastructure in major hospitals and cancer centers, some regional disparities.

3. Moderate infrastructure, primarily in private settings or research institutions.

2. Limited infrastructure, available only in select centers or for high-cost private testing.

1. Minimal or no infrastructure, testing mostly unavailable or sent abroad.

Country	Specialized Centers	Genetic & Molecular Testing Infrastructure
South Africa	3	3
Kenya	2	2
Nigeria	2	2
Egypt	3	3
Morocco	2	2
Algeria	2	2
Ethiopia	1	1
India	3	3
Japan	4	4
South Korea	4	4
China	3	3
Thailand	3	3
Singapore	4	4
United Kingdom	4	4
Germany	5	5
France	4	4
Netherlands	5	5
Sweden	5	5
Italy	4	4
Spain	4	4
Poland	3	3
Mexico	2	2
Brazil	3	3
Argentina	3	3
Chile	3	3
Colombia	2	2
United States	5	5
Canada	5	5
Australia	4	4
New Zealand	4	4
Greece	3	3
Rwanda	1	1
Uganda	1	1
Serbia	3	3
Saudi Arabia	3	3
UAE	3	4
Syria	1	1
Indonesia	2	2
Vietnam	2	2
Philippines	2	2
Russia	4	3

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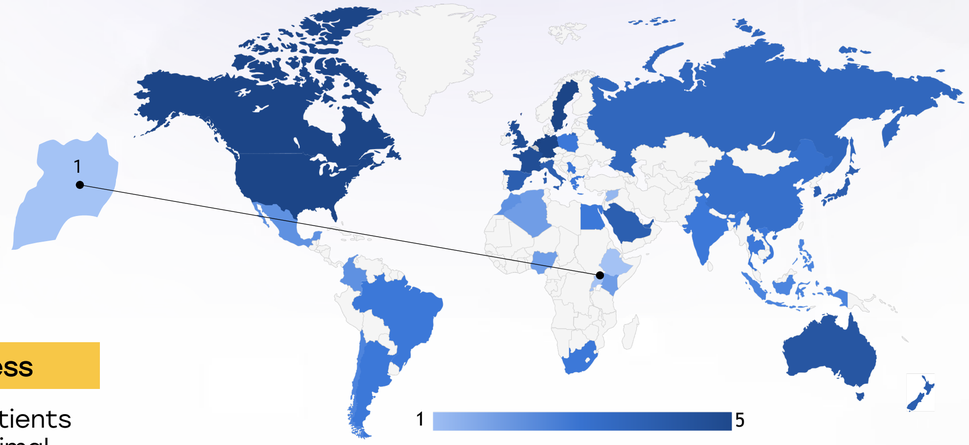
Treatment Access, Research Funding and Awareness Campaigns



Strengths

- Active local NGOs and international research collaborations (e.g., AORTIC, NCI).

Weakness

- <10% of patients receive optimal treatment.
- Radiotherapy wait times exceed 6 months.

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Opportunity

- Expand access to public sector oncology services.

Threats

- Lack of funding and high out-of-pocket costs reduce treatment uptake.

5. Strong healthcare infrastructure with comprehensive treatment access, high research funding, and nationwide awareness campaigns. Patients have access to advanced therapies, clinical trials, and widespread early detection programs.

4. Well-developed system with good treatment availability, strong research funding, and effective but regionally focused awareness campaigns. Some disparities may exist in rural areas or between public and private sectors.

3. Moderate development, with specialized treatments available in major hospitals, research funding concentrated on specific cancers, and occasional but limited awareness efforts. Healthcare access may be restricted by cost or geography.

2. Limited system where cancer treatment is available only in select urban centers, research funding is minimal or sporadic, and awareness campaigns are rare or underfunded. Patients often face long wait times or financial barriers.

1. Poor infrastructure with severe barriers to treatment, little to no research funding, and lack of structured awareness campaigns. Cancer care is largely inaccessible, with many patients relying on out-of-pocket expenses or external aid.

Country	Treatment Access	Research Funding	Awareness Campaigns
South Africa	3	3	3
Kenya	2	2	2
Nigeria	2	2	2
Egypt	3	3	3
Morocco	2	2	3
Algeria	2	2	2
Ethiopia	1	1	1
India	3	3	3
Japan	4	4	4
South Korea	4	4	4
China	3	4	3
Thailand	3	3	3
Singapore	4	5	5
United Kingdom	4	5	5
Germany	5	5	5
France	4	5	5
Netherlands	5	5	5
Sweden	5	5	5
Italy	4	4	4
Spain	4	4	4
Poland	3	3	3
Mexico	2	2	3
Brazil	3	3	3
Argentina	3	3	3
Chile	2	3	3
Colombia	2	2	3
United States	5	5	5
Canada	5	5	5
Australia	4	4	5
New Zealand	4	4	4
Greece	3	3	3
Rwanda	1	1	1
Uganda	1	1	1
Serbia	3	3	3
Saudi Arabia	4	4	4
UAE	4	4	4
Syria	2	1	1
Indonesia	3	2	3
Vietnam	3	2	3
Philippines	3	2	3
Russia	4	4	3

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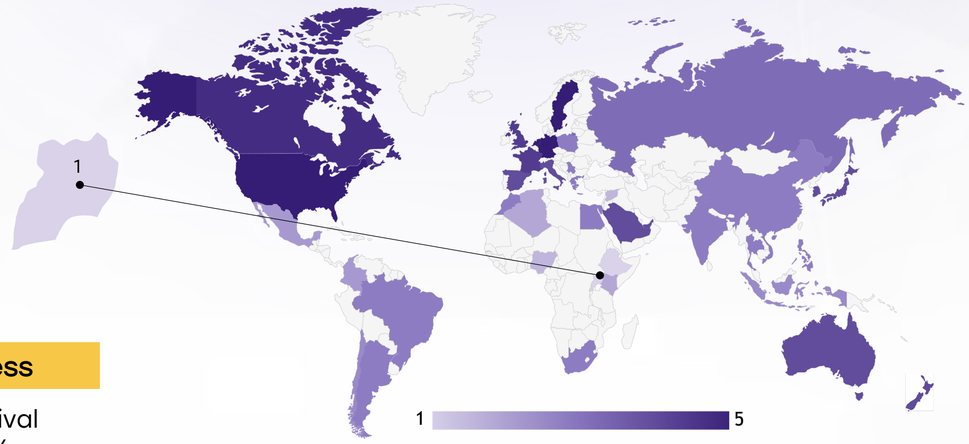
Survival Rates, Early Detection and Palliative Care



Strengths

- Some community-based palliative initiatives exist (e.g., Hospice Africa Uganda).

Weakness

- 5-year survival <30%; >75% diagnosed at Stage III/IV.
- No national screening program.

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Opportunity

- Train health workers in clinical exams; expand pain relief access.

Threats

- Morphine availability and end-of-life support are critically limited.

5. High survival rates, strong early detection programs, and well-established palliative care services. Patients have access to timely diagnosis, advanced treatments, and comprehensive end-of-life care.

4. Good survival rates, effective early detection efforts, and accessible but regionally limited palliative care. Some disparities may exist in rural areas or for specific cancer types.

3. Moderate survival rates, early detection available but not widespread, and palliative care services mainly in urban centers. Some patients experience delays in diagnosis or limited end-of-life care.

2. Low survival rates, early detection efforts are inconsistent or underfunded, and palliative care is minimal or only available in select hospitals. Cancer patients face significant access barriers.

1. Very low survival rates, poor early detection infrastructure, and almost no palliative care services. Many patients are diagnosed late and lack proper support for pain management and end-of-life care.

Country	Survival Rates	Early Detection	Palliative Care
South Africa	3	3	3
Kenya	2	2	2
Nigeria	2	1	2
Egypt	3	3	3
Morocco	3	3	3
Algeria	2	2	2
Ethiopia	1	1	1
India	3	3	3
Japan	4	4	4
South Korea	4	4	4
China	3	3	3
Thailand	3	3	3
Singapore	4	5	4
United Kingdom	4	5	4
Germany	5	5	5
France	4	5	4
Netherlands	5	5	5
Sweden	5	5	5
Italy	4	4	4
Spain	4	4	4
Poland	3	3	3
Mexico	2	3	2
Brazil	3	3	3
Argentina	3	3	3
Chile	2	3	3
Colombia	2	3	2
United States	5	5	5
Canada	5	5	4
Australia	4	4	4
New Zealand	4	4	4
Greece	3	3	3
Rwanda	1	1	1
Uganda	1	1	1
Serbia	3	3	3
Saudi Arabia	4	4	4
UAE	4	4	4
Syria	2	2	1
Indonesia	3	3	2
Vietnam	3	3	2
Philippines	3	3	3
Russia	4	3	3

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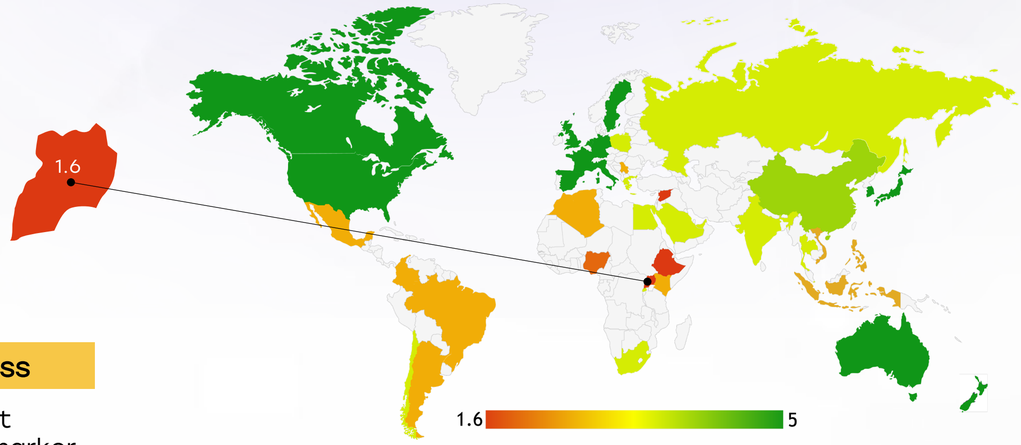
Utilization of Biomarkers



Strengths

- HER2/ER/PR testing available in select private labs.
- Some pilot NGS initiatives via international projects.

Weakness

- >70% do not receive biomarker testing.
- BRCA testing nearly nonexistent.

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Opportunity

- Build national capacity for IHC and BRCA testing.

Threats

- Delays and poor test quality hinder timely treatment decisions.

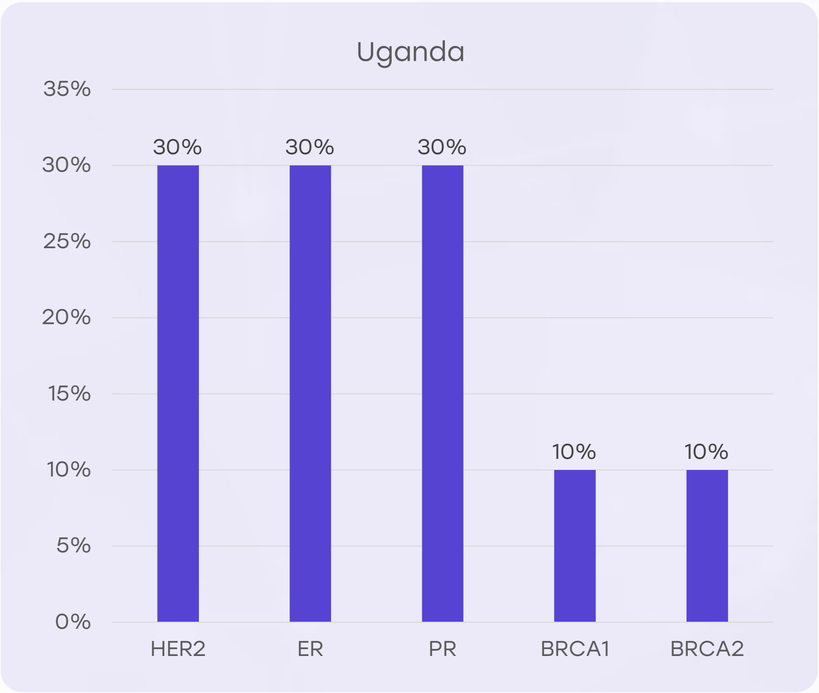
5. 80% Biomarker testing is widely available and routinely performed as part of standard clinical practice. Strong integration into treatment decisions, with national coverage and reimbursement ensuring accessibility.

4. 61-80%. Biomarker testing is commonly used, but access may be limited in certain regions or patient groups. Some disparities exist in coverage or affordability, but it is still a crucial part of cancer diagnostics

3. 41-60% Moderate utilization, often restricted to major hospitals or private healthcare settings. Some patients may not receive biomarker testing due to cost or limited availability in public healthcare systems.

2. 20-40% Biomarker testing is available but underutilized, with significant barriers such as high costs, lack of awareness, or limited infrastructure. Many patients may not receive recommended biomarker assessments.

1. <20% Biomarker testing is rarely performed, often due to lack of infrastructure, awareness, or financial barriers. Patients typically do not receive targeted therapies based on biomarker status.



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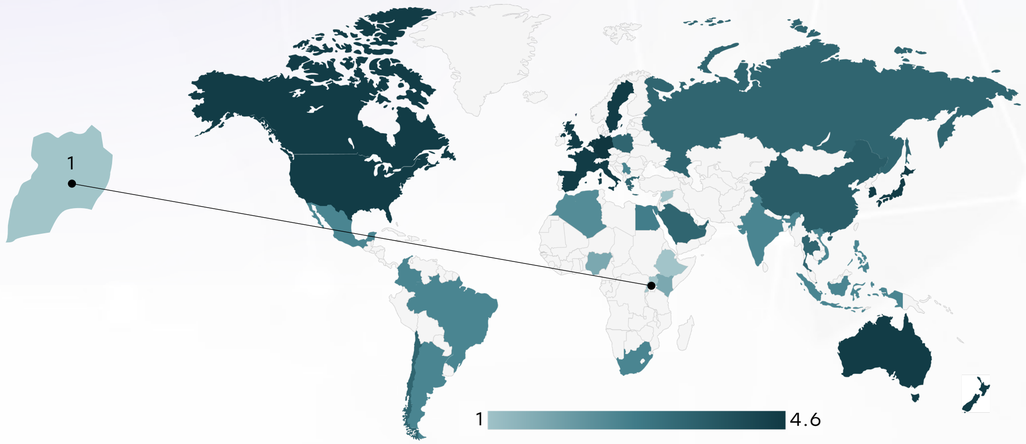
Clinical Guidelines



Strengths

- Some training collaborations underway to enhance cancer care skills.

Weakness

- No national breast cancer guidelines implemented.
- Physicians rely on outdated or informal protocols.

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Opportunity

- Align with ESMO/NCCN through national frameworks.

Threats

- Lack of integration and training limits guideline uptake.

	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Clinical Guideline Implementation	✖	✖	✖	✖	O
Feasibility of Integration	✖	✖	✖	✖	O
Adoption of International Guidelines	✖	✖	✖	✖	O
Engagement with Updates	✖	✖	✖	✖	O
ESMO Guidelines Implementation	✖	✖	✖	✖	O

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Reimbursement

Strengths

- Some NGOs provide limited financial support for services.

Weakness

- No structured reimbursement system; patients pay out-of-pocket.

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Opportunity

- Develop national cancer funding scheme.

Threats

- Financial burden leads to treatment discontinuation or avoidance.

O Yes - A structured reimbursement system exists, ensuring biomarker testing is covered through national healthcare systems, insurance, or public-private partnerships. Patients face no direct financial burden.

O Partial - A reimbursement framework is in place, but patients may still have out-of-pocket expenses such as co-pays, limited coverage, or financial caps on testing.

✖ No - No formal reimbursement system exists, meaning patients must fully cover the cost of biomarker testing out-of-pocket.

Country	Reimbursement	No-cost Access
South Africa	O	✖
Kenya	✖	✖
Nigeria	✖	✖
Egypt	O	O
Morocco	O	✖
Algeria	O	✖
Ethiopia	✖	✖
India	O	✖
Japan	O	O
South Korea	O	O
China	O	O
Thailand	O	O
Singapore	O	O
United Kingdom	O	O
Germany	O	O
France	O	O
Netherlands	O	O
Sweden	O	O
Italy	O	O
Spain	O	O
Poland	O	O
Mexico	O	✖
Brazil	O	✖
Argentina	O	✖
Chile	O	O
Colombia	O	✖
United States	O	O
Canada	O	O
Australia	O	O
New Zealand	O	O
Greece	O	O
Rwanda	✖	✖
Uganda	✖	✖
Serbia	O	O
Saudi Arabia	O	O
UAE	O	O
Syria	O	O
Indonesia	O	O
Vietnam	✖	✖
Philippines	✖	✖
Russia	O	O

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Breast Cancer Screening

Strengths

- NGO-led campaigns promote self-exams and awareness.

Weakness

- No national screening program; mammography nearly absent in public sector.

Opportunity

- Launch government-led early detection strategy.

Threats

- Most diagnoses occur at advanced stage, worsening prognosis.

Country	Breast Cancer Screening
United States	Biennial mammograms (50-74 years)
United Kingdom	Triennial mammograms (50-71 years)
Canada	Mammograms every 2-3 years (50-74 years)
Australia	Biennial mammograms (50-74 years)
Germany	Mammograms every 2 years (50-69 years)
France	Biennial mammograms (50-74 years)
Netherlands	Mammograms every 2 years (50-75 years)
Sweden	Mammograms every 18-24 months (40-74 years)
Italy	Mammograms every 2 years (50-69 years)
Spain	Mammograms every 2 years (50-69 years)
Poland	Mammograms every 2 years (50-69 years)
Japan	Mammograms every 2 years (40+ years)
South Korea	Biennial mammograms (40+ years)
China	Regional mammogram programs (40-69 years)
India	Opportunistic screening
Singapore	Biennial mammograms (50-69 years)
Saudi Arabia	Opportunistic screening; regional programs for women aged 40+
UAE	Opportunistic screening; encouraged every 2 years for 40-69 years
Syria	No national program; limited local initiatives due to conflict

Country	Breast Cancer Screening
Thailand	Biennial mammograms (50-69 years)
South Africa	Opportunistic screening
Kenya	No national program
Nigeria	No national program
Egypt	National awareness campaigns
Morocco	National program for 45-69 years
Algeria	Planned national program (50-69 years)
Ethiopia	No national program
Mexico	Biennial mammograms (40-69 years)
Brazil	Biennial mammograms (50-69 years)
Argentina	Biennial mammograms (50-69 years)
Chile	Mammograms every 3 years (50-69 years)
Colombia	Biennial mammograms (50-69 years)
New Zealand	Biennial mammograms (45-69 years)
Greece	Biennial mammograms (50-69 years)
Rwanda	No national program
Uganda	No national program
Serbia	Biennial mammograms (50-69 years)
Indonesia	Opportunistic screening; no national mammography program
Vietnam	Regional mammography programs; pilot programs in urban areas (age 45–69)
Philippines	Opportunistic screening; mammography recommended every 2 years for women 50+
Russia	National program for biennial mammograms (50–69 years)