



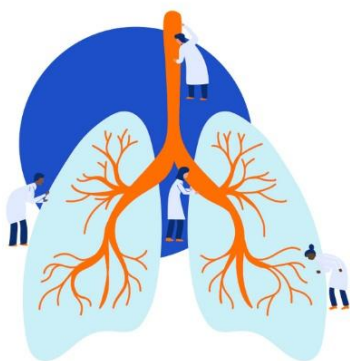
BRIDGING THE GAP

Enhancing Equitable Access & Innovation in Lung Cancer Care in Morocco

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Morocco is taking gradual steps to strengthen lung cancer care, notably in awareness and palliative support. Yet significant gaps remain in early detection, treatment access, and equitable infrastructure. Concentrated care facilities, high out-of-pocket costs, and limited availability of advanced therapies continue to restrict patient outcomes.

This policy brief examines current conditions and outlines strategic reforms to enhance Morocco's lung cancer maturity.



INTRODUCTION

Building on Awareness Gains Amid Structural Gaps

As Morocco faces an increasing burden of non-communicable diseases, lung cancer remains a critical challenge. Though awareness has improved through government-backed anti-smoking campaigns and efforts from institutions like the **Lalla Salma Foundation**, the health system struggles to translate this into early diagnosis or comprehensive care.

With a **Level 2 – Developing** lung cancer maturity, Morocco is positioned to accelerate improvements if current momentum is reinforced by coordinated policy actions and resource allocation.



Morocco ranks at Level 2 – Lung Cancer Maturity Framework



LUNG CANCER IN MOROCCO

Current Landscape and Strategic Gaps

Pillar	Current Status	Strength	Policy Action
Early Detection & Diagnosis	Lung cancer is typically diagnosed at late stages, with over 60% of cases identified after significant progression due to lack of routine screening.	Public health campaigns have raised awareness about tobacco-related risks.	Implement a structured national screening framework for high-risk individuals and improve diagnostic tools availability across regional hospitals.
Biomarker & Molecular Testing	Molecular and biomarker testing is mostly unavailable in the public sector, limiting access to personalized treatment approaches.	Some access in urban specialty centers like Ibn Rochd, with potential for expansion.	Integrate molecular diagnostics into public hospital services and promote partnerships with pharmaceutical companies for testing infrastructure support.
Treatment Access	Access to cutting-edge treatments like immunotherapy is limited to private settings, creating affordability and availability barriers.	The Ramed Public Health Insurance offers partial financial protection for eligible patients.	Expand the Ramed scheme to cover essential oncology medications and facilitate procurement of immunotherapy for public hospitals.
Clinical Guidelines	Lack of standardized national guidelines creates inconsistencies in treatment across healthcare settings.	Specialist centers in Casablanca follow international protocols, offering a foundation for standardization.	Develop and disseminate national lung cancer treatment guidelines aligned with international best practices & train clinicians across all regions.
Palliative & Survivorship Care	Palliative care is developing, with the Lalla Salma Foundation playing a key role, but services remain uneven across regions.	Palliative support networks have begun reaching underserved populations.	Invest in community-based palliative care teams and ensure nationwide access to pain relief medications, including morphine & psychological support services.



CONCLUSION & Call to Action

Morocco's lung cancer system is at a crossroads. The country has made notable headway in public awareness, but this progress has yet to translate into early detection or equitable access to treatment. The need for a national strategy—integrating screening, diagnostics, treatment, and survivorship—is urgent and actionable.



CONCLUSION

With the right policy interventions, Morocco has the potential to transition from fragmented services to a cohesive, patient-centered lung cancer care system. Building on promising initiatives and leveraging institutional strengths will be critical in improving survival outcomes and ensuring that every Moroccan—regardless of geography or income—has access to timely and effective lung cancer care.