

## International

### Institut Curie in Tanzania: Look Back at a Vast 4-year Project to Improve Cancer Care

Training doctors and community health workers, outreach and screening in the field, investing in equipment... since 2019, Institut Curie has been running an ambitious, integrated public-private cancer program in Tanzania, with the Aga Khan Foundation's health care services, financed to the tune of 13 million euros by the French Development Agency (AFD) and the Aga Khan. The *Tanzania Comprehensive Cancer Project* comes to an end today with very positive results: 4.45 million people reached, 673 000 people screened and 29 700 new patients treated.

On June 30, 2023, Institut Curie and AFD will sign a partnership agreement to set up a group of French cancer experts to work on similar projects in other developing countries.

Tanzania has a population of around 65.5 million (*Source Ined, data mid-2022*), and is a country in a very precarious situation in terms of cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment. There are more than 40 000 new cases of cancer every year ([according to data from the WHO International Agency for Research on Cancer, 2018](#)), most notably cervical, breast, prostate and colon cancers). However, only 30% of patients are treated in health care structures, and over 70% are diagnosed at advanced stages of the disease.

#### An Ambitious, Integrated 13-million Euro Project

The *Tanzania Comprehensive Cancer Project* (TCCP) is a vast project to transform cancer care in Tanzania, financed to the tune of 13 million euros by the AFD and the Aga Khan Foundation, which has a strong presence in the region. Institut Curie was asked to advise and co-pilot the program, providing experts and working with Tanzanian teams in the field.

Deployed in Tanzania's two most populous regions (Dar es Salaam and Mwanza), TCCP's goal was to improve the organization and quality of care provided in the country, through **financial, technical and material support**. The program is structured **around 4 missions**: population outreach and early detection, strengthening technical and human resources, integrating the whole region in developing cancer treatment, and setting up evaluation and research facilities.

#### Enhancing Human Resources for Earlier Detection and Better Treatment

The real challenge in this project was training; firstly for the medical teams (physicians, nurses, pharmacists) but above all for community health workers throughout the region whose job is to go into the communities and raise awareness about screening and diagnosis, particularly among women, to overcome strong social barriers. **Over the past 4 years, a dozen health care professionals from Institut Curie have provided support and knowledge in palliative care, anatomopathology and interventional radiology. More than 464 physicians and nurses and 400 community health workers have been trained and are now active in the field.**

The program has also led to the creation of a cancer center with two state-of-the-art radiotherapy machines and an outpatient chemotherapy unit at the Aga Khan Hospital in Dar es Salaam. The public hospital in Mwanza and the Dar es Salaam cancer center both received a mammography unit. The latter was also equipped with infusion pumps for drug treatments and a modern brachytherapy unit.

Four years after the start of the program, the results are very positive and encouraging: **29 700 new patients have been treated in hospitals in the Dar es Salaam and Mwanza regions (compared with only 6 800 in 2020), and almost 28% of them were treated in the early stages of the disease (compared to 15% in 2020).**

*"The results from Institut Curie's mission in Tanzania over the past 4 years confirm our belief in the concrete benefits of people-centered support in the field to transform cancer screening, diagnosis and care in regions where the situation is difficult. Fruitful collaboration in Tanzania with our partners the Aga Khan and the AFD has energized us to launch and pursue similar programs in neighboring regions and countries",* declared **Prof. Thierry Philip, Chairman of the Institut Curie Executive Board.**

**The results of the TCCP will be presented at a symposium on June 30, 2023 at Institut Curie in Paris, attended by all the stakeholders in this public-private program:** Institut Curie, Aga Khan, AFD, Tanzanian Ministry of Health and associated hospitals Muhimbili University Hospital in Dar es Salaam, Ocean Road Cancer Institute in Dar es Salaam, Bugando Medical Center in Mwanza, the Aga Khan's private hospitals and healthcare facilities.

**Following this event, Institut Curie and AFD will sign a partnership agreement to set up a group of French cancer experts to work on similar projects in other developing countries.**

#### **KEY FIGURES for the Tanzania Comprehensive Cancer Project (TCCP) • mid-May 2023**

Over the past four years, the initiatives in Tanzania have produced positive and encouraging results:

- ✓ **4.45 million people made aware of** early detection
- ✓ **673 000 people** visited **screening centers**
- ✓ **Almost 28% of patients diagnosed at early stages of the disease (compared to 15% in 2020)**
- ✓ The target for the early detection strategy deployed in the country's health clinics was exceeded at **256%**.
- ✓ **11 radiotherapy machines** across the country (up from 7 machines in 2019)
- ✓ **1 new cancer center** in Dar es Salam's Aga Khan Hospital
- ✓ **Training for 400 physicians and nurses** (pathology, palliative care, radiology, etc.).
- ✓ Training for **464 community health workers** active in the field today



Ocean Road Cancer Institute in Dar es Salaam. ©



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### Press contacts:

Elsa Champion – [elsa.champion@curie.fr](mailto:elsa.champion@curie.fr) / 07 64 43 09 28

Joséphine Legrand – [josephine.legrand@havas.com](mailto:josephine.legrand@havas.com) / 07 88 61 74 01

Marianne Périquoi-Macé – [periquoimacem@afd.fr](mailto:periquoimacem@afd.fr) / 07 61 18 32 52

### About Institut Curie

Institut Curie, France's leading cancer center, combines an internationally-renowned research center with a cutting-edge hospital group, treating all types of cancer, including the rarest. Founded in 1909 by Marie Curie, Institut Curie employs 3,700 researchers, physicians, and health professionals across three sites (Paris, Saint-Cloud, and Orsay), all of whom contribute to its three missions of treatment, teaching, and research. A foundation with public utility status, Institut Curie is authorized to accept donations and bequests, and thanks to the support of its donors, is able to accelerate discoveries and improve patient treatment and quality of life. Find out more at: [curie.fr](http://curie.fr)

### About Agence Française de Développement

The Agence Française de Développement (AFD) implements France's policy in the areas of development and international solidarity. Through funding for the public sector and NGOs, its research and publications (Editions AFD), training in sustainable development (Campus AFD) and awareness-raising activities in France, AFD funds, supports and accelerates the transitions to a fairer and more sustainable world. We work with our partners to provide shared solutions, with and for the people of the South. Our teams carry out more than 4 000 projects in the field: in French overseas territories, in 115 countries and in regions in crisis, for the common good - climate, biodiversity, peace, gender equality, education and health. In this way, we contribute to the commitment of France and the French people to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For a shared world.

More information: [www.afd.fr](http://www.afd.fr)

### About the Aga Khan Foundation

The Aga Khan Foundation is a private, not-for-profit, non-denominational international development agency established in 1967 by His Highness the Aga Khan as part of the Aga Khan Development Network. Aga Khan Health Services working in healthcare, is one of three agencies in the Aga Khan Development Network, the other two being the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) and the Aga Khan University (AKU). Together, these three agencies deliver quality healthcare to five million people every year, and work closely together on planning, training and resource development.