

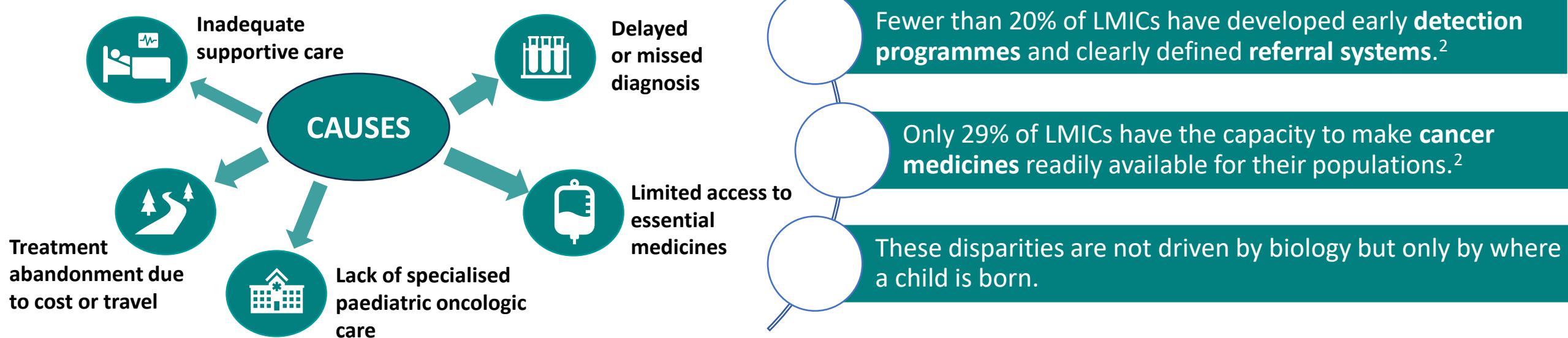
What?

Every year, over 400,000 children and adolescents develop cancer worldwide.¹ These illnesses range from lymphomas and leukaemias to solid tumours such as retinoblastomas, neuroblastomas, and Wilms tumour.¹ Even to this day, to many children, a cancer diagnosis is equivalent to a death sentence.

Why?

In spite of the advancements in cancer therapy over the last decades, massive geographical disparities in outcomes persist. In low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), fewer than 30% of children with cancer are cured, compared to the 80% cure rate achieved in high-income countries.²

Survival inequities in childhood cancers: the reason



Who...

... lives? Children in high-income countries, who are **diagnosed early** and have access to **specialist care**.

... dies? Children born in LMICs, whose diagnosis and treatment remain **underfunded**.

... is missing from the story? Families without the resources to fund treatment, and health systems without the resources to publish, advocate or be heard.

Author Comments

On World Cancer Day, we must renew our commitment to:

- Invest in early detection and treatment – everywhere.
- Strengthen the healthcare systems of LMICs.
- **Tell** the stories that are missing, **until every child is counted, treated and heard**.

References

1. World Health Organization. Childhood cancer [Internet]. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2025 Feb 4 [cited 2026 Jan 22]. Available from: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/cancer-in-children>
2. World Health Organization. Assessing national capacity for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases: report of the 2019 global survey [Internet]. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2020 [cited 2026 Jan 22]. Available from: <https://iris.who.int/server/api/core/bitstreams/10d464af-58dc-4ddf-bf83-77de802e1741/content>