

# DJIBOUTI

#### General data

POPULATION, 2023 1,136,455

PHYSICIANS/1000 INH, 2020-2022

NURSES/1000 INH, 2020-2022

LIFE EXPECTANCY, 2022

#### 66.41

#### Socioeconomic data

COUNTRY INCOME LEVEL, 2022

#### Lower middle income

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX RANKING, 2023 176

GDP PER CAPITA (US\$), 2023

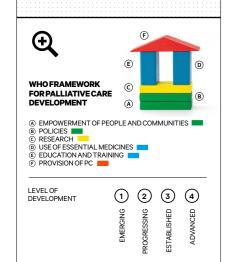
3,554.84

HEALTH EXPENDITURE, 2021

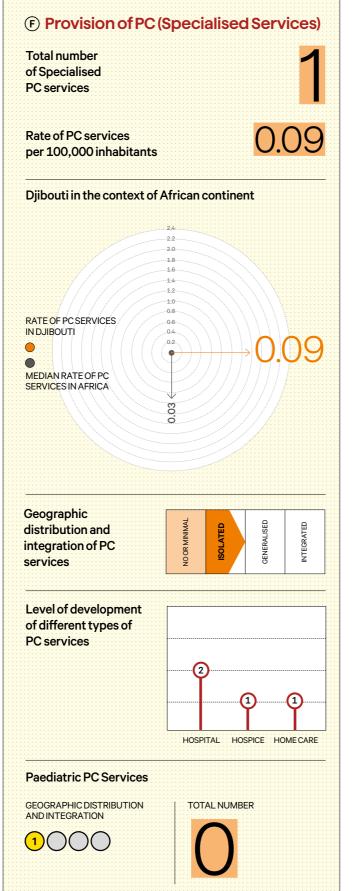
87.75

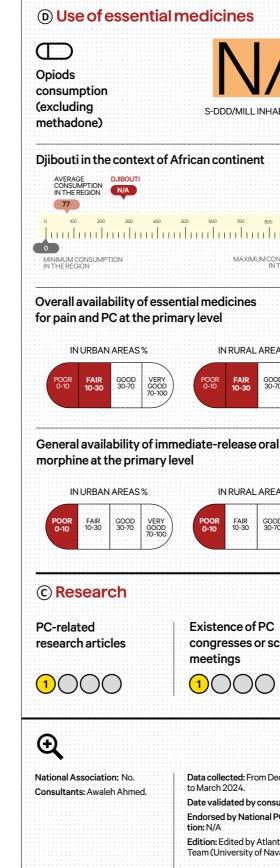
UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE, 2021

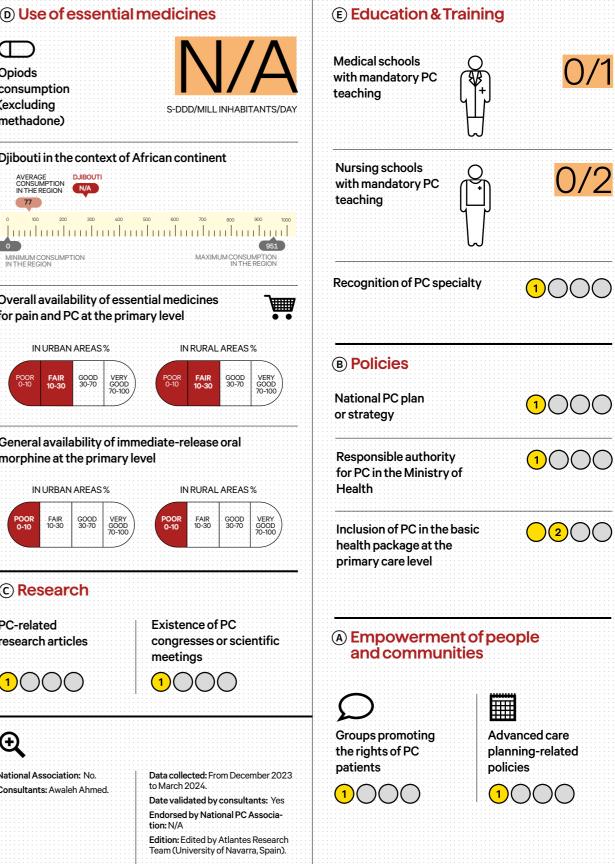
44



## **AF** Djibouti







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#### Ind1

Existence of groups dedicated to promoting the rights of patients in need of PC, their caregivers, and disease survivors.



Only isolated activity can be detected.

#### Ind2

Is there a national policy or guideline on advance directives or advance care planning?



There is no national policy or guideline on advance care planning.

Djibouti does not have a national policy on advance planning for end-of-life medical decisions. Patients with terminal illnesses are not informed of palliative care options, often leaving decisions to families as per a lack of formalized guidelines.

#### Ind3

3.1. There is a current national PC plan, programme, policy, or strategy.

3.2. The national

palliative care plan

(or programme or

is a standalone.

strategy or legislation)



Do not know or does not exist.



In Djibouti, the first national cancer control plan, which includes a palliative care component, is currently being adopted and was expected to be finalized by the end of 2024. A standalone national palliative care plan is also being developed, but it

has not yet been validated.

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3.3. There are indicators in the national plan to monitor and evaluate progress, with measurable targets.



Not known or does not exist.

#### Ind4

PC services are included in the list of priority services for Universal Health Coverage at the primary care level in the national health system.



Decree or law to include palliative care in the list of health services provided at the primary care level in preparation.

In Djibouti, palliative care is mentioned in Decree No. 2024-219/ PR/MS, which regulates the private sector healthcare facilities. Article 1 explicitly includes palliative care among the services provided by multidisciplinary clinics, polyclinics, and hospitals. These facilities must offer preventive, curative, palliative, diagnostic, hospitalization, and functional rehabilitation care. However, these services remain focused on individual services, excluding a collective prevention approach, which is the sole responsibility of state public services. This mention of palliative care, while present, remains limited in terms of implementation within the framework of primary care and universal health coverage.

#### Ind5

5.1. Is there a national authority for palliative care within the government or the Ministry of Health?



There is no coordinating entity.

5.2. The national authority has concrete functions, budget and staff.



Does not have concrete functions or resources (budget, staff, etc.).

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#### Ind6

Existence of congresses or scientific meetings at the national level specifically related to PC.



There are no national conaresses or scientific meetings related to palliative care.

To date, there are no palliative care specialists or dedicated activities, coordinated or not, in this area, in Djibouti.

#### Ind7

Estimation of the level of peer-reviewed articles focusing on PC research published in any language in the past 5 years with at least one author from the country.



Indicates a minimal or nonexistent number of articles published on the subject in that country.

A comprehensive scoping review conducted in March 2023, cover $ing\,publications\,from\,2017\,onward, did\,not\,identify\,any\,peer-re$ viewed articles on palliative care in Djibouti that met the inclusion criteria for this indicator.

#### Ind8

Reported annual opioid consumption -excluding methadone-in S-DDD per million inhabitants per day.

No Data Reported for Djibouti.

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#### Ind9

-9.1. Percentage of health facilities at the primary care level in Urban areas that have pain and palliative care medications as defined in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines.

-9.2. Percentage of health facilities at the primary care level in rural areas that have pain and palliative care medications as defined in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines.





Fair: Between 10% to 30%.

 $\bigcirc$ 2 $\bigcirc$ 

Fair: Between 10% to 30%.

In Djibouti, pain management medications classified as tier 1 and 2 are widely accessible across all health facilities and can be obtained over the counter in private pharmacies. However, access to tier 3 medications—specifically strong opioids—is restricted to level 3 hospitals and the national cancer center. This limited distribution confines the availability of essential analgesics for severe pain to a few specialized healthcare insti-

#### **Ind 10**

- 10.1. Percentage of health facilities at the primary care level in urban areas that have immediaterelease oral morphine (liquid or tablet).

-10.2. Percentage of health facilities at the primary care level in rural areas that have immediate-release oral morphine (liquid or tablet).



Poor: Between 0% to 10%.



Poor: Between 0% to 10%.

Immediate-release oral morphine is not available in Djibouti. Accessible strong opioids are only available in level 3 hospitals and the cancer center, and are not offered at the primary care level.



#### **Ind 11**

- 11.1. The proportion of medical schools with COMPULSORY teaching in PC (with or without other optional teaching)
- 11.2. The proportion of medical schools with OPTIONAL teaching in PC.
- 11.3. The proportion of nursing schools with COMPULSORY teaching in PC (with or without other optional teaching).
- 11.4. The proportion of nursing schools with OPTIONAL teaching in PC.











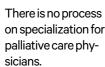


The creation of the Faculty of Medicine in 2007 marked a turning point in addressing the shortage of physicians following independence. Before this initiative, medical training abroad particularly in France, Africa, and Cuba-had mixed outcomes, as some students did not return or faced challenges reintegrating due to diverse educational backgrounds. With support from WHO and Tunisia, a harmonised medical curriculum was established, including seven years of study at the University of Djibouti and internships in Tunisia. Despite this progress, palliative care remains absent from the curricula of both medical and paramedical schools in the country. Neither the Faculty of Medicine nor the paramedical training institute offers dedicated instruction in this field, aside from a few limited modules related to cancer. Paramedical education includes nursing, midwifery, and other non-physician health professions.

#### **Ind 12**

Existence of an official specialisation process in palliative medicine for physicians, recognised by the competent authority in the country.







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#### **Ind13**

- 13.1. There is a system of specialised PC services or teams in the country that has a GEOGRAPH-IC reach and is delivered through different service delivery platforms.
- 13.2. Are available in HOSPITALS (public or private), such as hospital PC teams (consultation teams), and PC units (with beds), to name a few examples.
- 13.3. Free-standing **HOSPICES** (including hospices with inpatient beds).
- -13.4. HOME CARE teams (specialised in PC) are available in the community (or at the primary Healthcare level), as independent services or linked with hospitals or hospices.
- 13.5. Total number of specialised PC services



Isolated provision: Exists but only in some geographic areas.



Progressing. Ad hoc/in some parts of the country.

1000

Not at all.

1000 Not at all.

or teams in the country.

RATE OF SPECIALISED PC SERVICES/100.000 INH

Djibouti has a single clinical service dedicated to palliative care,

located in an urban area and offering limited primary care ser-

vices and inpatient beds. Furthermore, no specialized mobile

team is available to provide care to patients at home or in the

community, which significantly limits access to palliative care

for patients living far from existing facilities. The ratio of spe-

cialized palliative care services or teams in the country is 0.09

MEDIAN RATE IN THE REGION 0.03 DJIBOUTI

0.09 1 2 3 4 5

per 100,000 inhabitants.

← SPECIALISED PALLIATIVE

#### Ind14

- 14.1. There is a system of specialised PC services or teams for children in the country that has geographic reach and is delivered through different service delivery platforms.
- 14.2. Number of pediatric specialised PC services or teams in the country.



No or minimal provision of palliative care specialized services or teams for children exists in country.



TEAMS

APCA ATLAS OF PALLIATIVE CARE IN AFRICA 2025 186

APCA ATLAS OF PALLIATIVE CARE IN AFRICA 2025