



World Map of Palliative Care 2025:

10 Key Messages

1. **First-ever global ranking:** For the first time, palliative care development has been ranked worldwide using the WHO framework and a standardized methodology.
2. **Unprecedented scope:** Data from 201 countries and territories—covering over 99% of the world's population—provides the most comprehensive picture to date.
3. **Deep inequities:** More than half of the global population lives in countries with inadequate or no palliative care services.
4. **Levels of development and limited progress:** Countries were classified into four levels—Emerging (40%), Progressing (28%), Established (17%), and Advanced (14%). Only 29 countries are at the “Advanced” level, the same number as in 2017, showing limited global improvement despite expanded efforts.
5. **Regional disparities and leadership examples:** Europe and the Western Pacific host most Advanced systems, while Africa, the Eastern Mediterranean, and South-East Asia remain dominated by Emerging and Progressing levels. Yet, several countries with constrained resources—such as Uganda, Thailand, Uruguay, Chile, and Costa Rica—demonstrate that political will and strategic action can drive major advances.
6. **Africa's steep challenge:** Over half of African countries still lack basic palliative care infrastructure, though Uganda stands out as a beacon of hope.
7. **Structural barriers:** Underfunding, workforce shortages, limited infrastructure, and poor access to essential medicines remain critical obstacles, especially in resource-limited settings.
8. **Equity as priority:** Special attention must go to underserved groups—children, rural communities, displaced and marginalized populations—where suffering is greatest.
9. **Strategic roadmap:** The Global Development Score allows benchmarking and guides countries to strengthen PC through legislation, national plans, education, community-based models, and regional collaboration.
10. **From disparity to dignity:** The 2025 Map marks a shift from aspiration to implementation, offering a practical tool to close global gaps in serious health-related suffering relief.