Breast cancer accounts for almost a quarter of new cancer cases among women.

Breast cancer is the leading cancer type in females in most countries in the world in 2018. In lower-resource settings, breast and cervical cancer disproportionately affect women in the prime of life, resulting in significant economic and social impact. A woman’s country should not be allowed to influence the likelihood of dying from these cancers. — Dr. Ophira Ginsburg, medical oncologist

Breast cancer is high, there has been a decline or stabilization of rates, while in countries where rates have historically been low, rates have been markedly increasing, probably related to improved diagnosis (i.e., detection of asymptomatic cancers) in combination with socio-cultural changes linked to an increase in westernized lifestyle. Declines in breast cancer mortality rates have been reported in many high-income countries, with large decreases in European and North American countries and in Australia and New Zealand, whereas countries in transition continue to show a slight increase in mortality from breast cancer, though this appears to be slowing. The favorable trends in mortality may stem from the combined effects of earlier detection (screening and increased breast cancer awareness) and a range of improvements in treatment.

Although female breast cancer incidence and mortality rates are lowest in less developed countries, they remain substantial. Lifetime risk of breast cancer among females in high-income countries can be up to three times that in low-income countries.

Although female breast cancer incidence rates are lowest in less developed regions, mortality rates in these areas are comparable to most of the more developed regions due to lack of access to early detection and treatment.

In lower-resource settings, breast and cervical cancer disproportionately affect women in the prime of life, resulting in significant economic and social impact. A woman’s country should not be allowed to influence the likelihood of dying from these cancers. — Dr. Ophira Ginsburg, medical oncologist

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women in almost all countries worldwide.

In lower-resource settings, breast and cervical cancer disproportionately affect women in the prime of life, resulting in significant economic and social impact. A woman’s country should not be allowed to influence the likelihood of dying from these cancers. — Dr. Ophira Ginsburg, medical oncologist