

**Table 2 Selected indicators to evaluate palliative care activities in Eastern Mediterranean Region****Indicators**

- Existence of a current national palliative care plan, programme, policy or strategy.
- Number of specialized palliative care services in the country per population.
- Paediatric palliative care provision.
- Line item for palliative care in the national health budget for the Ministry of Health or equivalent government agency.
- Prequalification education for doctors/nurses.
- Availability of morphine and other strong opioids.
- Inclusion of palliative care services in the basic package of health services.
- Existence of professional vitality<sup>a</sup> regarding palliative care.
- Reported annual opioid consumption, excluding methadone, in morphine equivalence per capita.
- Specific palliative care national legislation.
- Level of public awareness of palliative care.
- Process of official specialization in palliative medicine for physicians, recognized by the competent authority.
- Palliative care included in health insurance plans.
- Availability of centres of excellence for palliative care, education and research.
- Existence of grants to finance palliative care research.

<sup>a</sup>Vitality: explores aspects regarding professional activity in PC, such as the existence of at least 1 national PC association, PC services directory, national journal of PC, and a PC congress. PC = palliative care.