

Ethiopia



Bole Sub City, Woreda 02
Airport Road, Noah Plaza 6th Floor
0116687129 | 0116686939
P.O. BOX 18357, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Current Activities

Data for Health Initiative

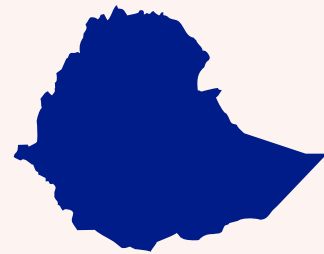
Vital Strategies is an implementing partner of the Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative, which supports governments in gathering accurate information about the health of their citizens to improve public health decision-making.

Data Impact

We are supporting the Ethiopian Public Health Institute to improve its data collection, reporting and communication. This includes building capacity to assess the extent to which evidence-based practices are being used in Ethiopia's health sector, developing indicators to analyze the health effects of air pollution and establishing a national air pollution monitoring system. We are also partnering with the Ministry of Health to establish a monitoring system to evaluate the effectiveness of national initiatives to reduce maternal mortality. Our work with the Central Statistical Agency involves supporting the development of standard operating procedures and a Vital Statistics Quality Assurance Implementation Guide, to help strengthen the agency's capacity to produce national vital statistic reports.

Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

We are helping government ministries responsible for civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) strengthen their capacity to count every life. To achieve this, we supported the development of a five-year strategic CRVS plan. Under the plan, we have helped develop a digital registration system and the first-ever vital statistics report. To improve the accuracy of data collected on deaths in communities, we supported the implementation of the verbal autopsy method and established guidelines for capturing excess mortality. We are also working with the Ethiopian Medical Association to provide training to medical personnel so they can properly certify and code causes of death.



Vital Strategies' Ethiopia office designs and supports scalable solutions to address leading causes of death, disease and injury, including cardiovascular disease and road crashes. We also help the government strengthen its preparedness and response to health security threats and emergencies.

Ethiopia is the second most populous country in Africa with over 107 million people and more than 80 ethnic groups. The country has taken numerous steps to improve the health of its people, including a national noncommunicable diseases (NCD) strategy that the Ministry of Health adopted in 2010. But implementation challenges remain: In 2016, approximately half of all deaths and disabilities in Ethiopia were attributable to NCDs and injuries.

Vital Strategies works with partners to address the lack of treatment and prevention services in primary care, low government expenditure, and the country's epidemic preparedness. Vital's Ethiopia office supports the Ministry of Health, Ethiopian Public Health Institute, Central Statistical Agency, the Ministry of Transport, Addis Abba City Administration and regional health bureaus to adopt and scale up lifesaving interventions and policies to address these challenges.



A poster from a speed campaign in Addis Ababa.

Road Safety

As an implementing partner of the Bloomberg Philanthropies Initiative for Global Road Safety, Vital Strategies supports the Ministry of Transport and Addis Ababa City Government in reducing deaths and injuries from road traffic crashes at the national and city level. We are supporting the Ministry of Transport to implement a speeding mass media campaign coordinated with enforcement at the national level, which is planned for September 2022. We are also providing technical support on the communication content of a 10-year plan and national road safety strategy. In Addis Ababa, we work with the municipal government to implement best-practice strategic communication campaigns that address key risk factors including drink driving and speeding, accompanied by enhanced enforcement of laws. We also support the city in strengthening its road safety surveillance system; activities supported include digitizing police data on road traffic crashes, linking police and hospital data to estimate road fatalities, and developing ongoing road safety reports, among other initiatives.

East African Training Initiative

Vital Strategies first began working in Ethiopia in 2012 when, as World Lung Foundation, we established the [East African Training Initiative](#) in partnership with Addis Ababa University and Black Lion Hospital. This two-year fellowship training program in pulmonary and critical care medicine has helped to fill an important gap in addressing tuberculosis and other lung diseases in the country. The initiative has trained 20 physicians in Ethiopia and program graduates have: established clinical pulmonary divisions at Black Lion and three other major hospitals; created the Ethiopian Thoracic Society; published more than 75 papers in peer-reviewed journals; and regularly provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Health on lung disease and critical illness in Ethiopia.

Resolve to Save Lives

Vital Strategies incubated the Resolve to Save Lives initiative from its launch in 2017 to 2022, when Resolve to Save Lives moved into a new phase as an independent organization focused on epidemic preparedness and response and reducing deaths from cardiovascular disease. Vital Strategies and Resolve to Save Lives continue to partner on key issues.



A salt reduction campaign launched in 2021 to facilitate a decrease in hypertension, heart disease, stroke and other related NCDs.

Nutrition Program

The Nutrition Program, a partnership between Vital Strategies and Resolve to Save Lives, uses a comprehensive policy framework and community-level activities to encourage healthier diets. Vital supports the development of a national salt reduction strategy and implementation plan and using strategic communication strategies to improve knowledge, shift attitudes and change salt-using behavior. This includes launching the country's first major mass media campaign to depict the dangers of high salt consumption in 2021. We are conducting community education activities in 352 primary and secondary schools, as well as health facilities. Our team also helped draft an unhealthy food control comprehensive proclamation to address unhealthy food additives added during food procurement, production and distribution.

Key Impact

- After Addis Ababa developed and implemented a comprehensive plan to reduce the rate of drink driving, with support from Vital Strategies, the drink-driving rate decreased from 10% in 2015 to 1.8% in 2019.
- In 2020, Addis Ababa registered a reduction in fatal road crashes for the first time in eight years.
- The protocol-based treatment for hypertension that was introduced and piloted by our Cardiovascular Health Program became national protocol for primary health care facilities and general hospitals. It is being used to develop and endorse protocol-based treatment for other major noncommunicable diseases including diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and rheumatic heart disease.

Stay Connected

[Twitter.com/VitalStrat](https://twitter.com/VitalStrat)

[Facebook.com/vitalstrategies](https://facebook.com/vitalstrategies)

[Instagram.com/vitalstrategies](https://instagram.com/vitalstrategies)

vitalstrategies.org

About Vital Strategies

Vision

A world where everyone is protected by equitable and effective public health systems.

Mission

We work in partnership to reimagine evidence-based, locally driven policies and practices to advance public health.