Partnering with governments in using data to improve public health

Vital Strategies’ Data Impact Program collaborates with governments to expand the use of data to enhance public health planning and policy development.

By focusing on global best practices in data use, these partnerships assist governments to use data to more effectively address public health priorities.

Data Impact’s technical assistance is customized to the priorities defined by each government’s public health leadership.

Learn more at www.vitalstrategies.org
Partnering With Data Impact

After a joint review of current data use practices, public health leaders and Vital Strategies staff develop a tailored program of activities and technical assistance in the following areas:

**People**

Strengthening technical capacity via training and mentoring

- **Ministry executives:** data-centered leadership
- **Analysts and policy developers:** decision analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis, writing policy briefs
- **Analysts:** basic and advanced policy-relevant analysis skills
- **Communication staff:** communicating with data

**EXAMPLE OF WORK**
Policy analysis provided smoke-free legislation support in Shanghai and motor-cycle helmet regulation in Colombia.

**Process**

Strengthening organizational structures for data use

- **Data for decision-makers:** indicator development, data dashboards, data review processes
- **Organizational design:** creating central analytic units and specialized units (e.g., GIS)
- **Data use policies and procedures:** data-sharing, public release, inter-agency roles and responsibilities

**EXAMPLE OF WORK**
We supported developing regional data units in Morocco and development of a national health information system policy in Tanzania.

**Product**

Creating compelling health reports to communicate priorities

- **Digital tools:** management dashboards, interactive portals
- **Data reports:** analytic reports, policy briefs, topical issue briefs

**EXAMPLE OF WORK**
In Shanghai, we sponsored a new online data query portal that enhances communication of critical public health issues. Data reports in Peru provided evidence for new policies such as expanding pneumococcal vaccine use and increased screening for cervical and breast cancer.

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**Our Global Partners**

- CDC Foundation
- Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- University of Melbourne
- World Health Organization

**Our Funders**

- Bloomberg Philanthropies
- Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative**

The initiative, supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies and the Government of Australia, is providing technical assistance to 20 low- and middle-income countries worldwide to strengthen public health data systems. The Data Impact Program, focusing on data use, is one of three Initiative components; the other two components focus on data collection and quality: improving civil registration and vital statistics systems and developing new tools for noncommunicable disease risk factor surveillance.