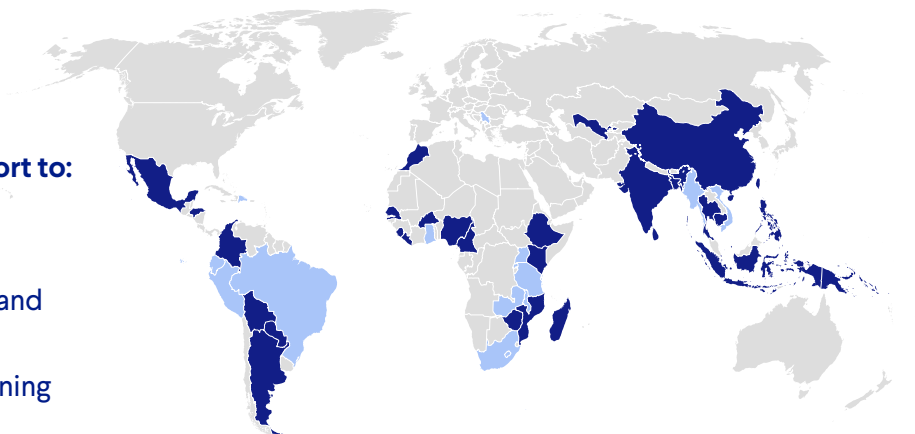# Data Impact

Using data to improve public health

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

Since inception in 2015, the Data Impact Program has supported governments to promote the use of data to address public health priorities by applying global best practices and evidence. As part of the Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative, the Data Impact program has worked directly in 41 countries in total.

The Data Impact team supports governments in three technical areas—People, Process and Product—in an effort to:

- Design solutions by enhancing the capacity of government staff to use data to identify public health issues and address them.
- Build a data use culture by strengthening practices, structures and policies to institutionalize widespread use of high-quality data.
- Develop policy by creating clear and compelling reporting of health data for targetted dissemination and action.

Legend: ■ Current   ■ Former Partnerships

Current Countries

Argentina	Honduras	Papua New Guinea	Tanzania
Bangladesh	India	Paraguay	Thailand
Bolivia	Indonesia	Philippines	Uganda
Burkina Faso	Kenya	Rwanda	Uzbekistan
Cambodia	Liberia	Senegal	Viet Nam
Cameroon	Mexico	Sierra Leone	Zambia
China	Morocco	Solomon Islands	Zimbabwe
Colombia	Mozambique	South Africa	
Ethiopia	Nigeria	Sri Lanka	

Partnering With Data Impact

Government public health leaders and Vital Strategies staff develop a tailored program of activities and technical assistance in the following technical areas:
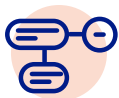
People

Enriching technical capacity for data use via training and mentoring programs

- **Data-Centered Leadership:** Equipping public health leaders to build data-driven organizations.
- **Data Analytics:** Developing and delivering data analysis training based on local needs.
- **Data Communication:** Delivering workshops and producing guidance for government communication staff or journalists to convey health information most effectively.
- **Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Data (CRVS) Use:** Implementing a structured approach for analyzing and using mortality and other CRVS data.
- **Gender Data Analysis:** Enhancing the analysis of gender health data to inform policy or program change.

EXAMPLE OF WORK

As part of the Data Centered Leadership program in Papua New Guinea, emerging leaders developed 16 data improvement plans focused on improving indicators used in government reports, data quality, and review processes. In Zimbabwe, a workshop for journalists on the use of CRVS data led to several media publications, which prompted Parliament to pay attention to specific health problems, such as high adolescent birth rates.

Process

Strengthening processes and systems for improved and efficient data use

- **Data to Policy:** An approach to policy development with systematic use of data and evidence.
- **Data use in decision-making:** Development of standard operating procedures and implementing business process changes to make data use practices more efficient and effective.
- **Strengthening institutional structures:** Equipping analytical and data use structures, such as analytics or policy units, to strengthen and institutionalize data use processes.

EXAMPLE OF WORK

Through Data to Policy training programs, we supported comparative policy evaluations through health impact and economic analysis which resulted in changes to the smoke-free legislation in Shanghai, motorcycle helmet regulation in Colombia, and the reduction in maternal fees for childbirth in Cameroon.

Product

Disseminating clear and compelling products to communicate priorities for efficient data use

- **Data reports:** Producing analytic reports, policy briefs, topical issue briefs, cause-of-death reports, and gender reports based on robust data.
- **Dashboards for decision-making:** Designing, developing and launching management and program dashboards for monitoring, planning and action.
- **Open access data:** Increasing public and internal access to data through the development and launch of interactive portals or dashboards.

EXAMPLES OF WORK

In Peru, data analysis on causes of death over a 30-year period led to new policies on expanding pneumococcal vaccine use and increased screening for cervical and breast cancer. NCD dashboards were developed in India to provide insights into program and facility level performance and gaps.

Our Global Partners

- CDC Foundation
- Global Health Advocacy Incubator
- Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- Pan American Health Organization
- U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific
- U.N. Economic Commission for Africa
- U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees
- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- World Health Organization

Our Funders

- Bloomberg Philanthropies
- The Gates Foundation

Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative

Today, approximately half of all deaths in the world go unrecorded; accordingly, health policy decisions are often based on inadequate information. Data for Health, funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies and The Gates Foundation, partners with countries to improve public health data and use of data for policymaking.