



# **BLOOMBERG DATA FOR HEALTH INITIATIVE**

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The Bloomberg Data for Health Initiative strengthens the collection and use of critical public health information. The Initiative will collaborate with 20 interested low- and middle-income city and country governments to:

- ✘ Strengthen the quality of birth and death registration, including causes of death
- ✘ Explore innovative approaches to non-communicable disease surveys and surveillance
- ✘ Enhance use of data for maximum impact in policymaking and priority setting

**THE DATA FOR HEALTH INITIATIVE  
IS COUNTRY-DRIVEN AND  
COMMITTED TO CAPACITY BUILDING  
AND THE SUSTAINABILITY  
OF IMPROVEMENTS MADE**

Technical assistance, dedicated country staff, and catalytic program funding will be provided to all participating countries. The Initiative's 4-year goal is to increase by 1 billion the number of people living in at least 20 low- and middle-income countries and cities where higher-quality health data is collected and used for improved public health policy and decision-making. In all aspects of planning and implementing the components described below, the Data for Health Initiative will be led by country and city priorities, with a focus on capacity building and sustainability.

## **CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS (CRVS) IMPROVEMENT**

Civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems that record births and deaths, including cause of death, are the foundation of any public health system. The Initiative will support countries to strengthen their CRVS systems. Assistance will be available to assess CRVS systems and develop improvement plans, improve cause of death assignment using internationally recognized standards, improve registration practices, and produce high quality data.

## **NCD SURVEILLANCE**

Depending on interest and resource availability, a subset of countries will participate in the study of mobile phone surveys as a quick and inexpensive non-communicable disease (NCD) surveillance method. This method would complement the World Health Organization (WHO) STEPS approach for NCD risk factor surveillance. WHO will support STEPS surveys under the Initiative to establish comparison factors for data collected using a mobile platform. Assistance for mobile phone and STEPS surveys will be available to develop and pilot surveys; build capacity for data collection and analysis and dissemination of survey findings; and establish standards for electronic data.

## **STRATEGIC USE OF DATA FOR POLICY AND PLANNING**

The Initiative will collaborate with governments to increase utilization of data for the prioritization of health issues, development of policies and programs, monitor impact, and communicate with stakeholders. Technical assistance will be available to develop policy-relevant analytic skills; use information technology to compile, manage, and share data from multiple sources; present and disseminate data to stakeholders.

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

In implementing their plans, city and country governments will have access to expert technical assistance from some of the world's leading public health organizations and academic institutions, including:

- ✘ Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- ✘ Union North America
- ✘ University of Melbourne
- ✘ US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- ✘ World Health Organization

**W: [mspgh.unimelb.edu.au/dataforhealth](http://mspgh.unimelb.edu.au/dataforhealth)**

