

India

PARTNERS

- Public Health Department, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)
- Commissionerate of Health Services, Maharashtra (CHS)

THE CONTEXT

Data Impact program has been delivering essential technical assistance to the urban government of Mumbai and the state government of Maharashtra. While the program focused on epidemiological surveillance and Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) verticals in the earlier phases, the last phase from Apr 2021-Mar 2023 has seen the expansion of analytical support to include, inter-alia, non-communicable diseases, MIS, and family welfare- maternal and child health departments. The program continues to provide support to the CRVS vertical, ensuring a gender-lens is incorporated to all the analyses.

THE APPROACH

Vital Strategies' Data Impact Program partners with governments to use data to improve public health by prioritizing health issues and identifying populations in need, allocating financial and human resources, enacting laws and regulations, and establishing programs and services. The program provides technical assistance in three categories:



Processes

Strengthening procedures, policies and systems for evidence use



Products

Producing analytic insights and compelling reporting of health data



People

Developing and reinforcing human capacity

Achievement 1

Establishing and sustaining analytical capabilities within the public health department

The Data Impact program established data analytic units within the public health departments of Mumbai and Maharashtra to enhance public health surveillance, specifically supporting the non-communicable disease (NCD) and MIS (Management Information System) departments. The units enable data-driven decision-making, support the digitization of NCD data and development of NCD dashboards and produce various analytic reports such as a mortality report, mental health report, etc. The state mental health report formed the basis for stakeholder technical workshop resulting in the development of policy briefs. The Maharashtra team supported the development of an NCD dashboard and analytic reports - NCD morbidity and mortality report and NCDs in pregnancy, that guided the drafting of the five-year action plan for NCDs for the state. The unit in Mumbai played a crucial role during the COVID-19 pandemic in collating and analyzing COVID-19 data. Through continued advocacy and engagement, the data analytic unit in Mumbai was successfully transitioned to the government, with their staff positions included in the annual budget of the Mumbai public health department. The DIP team has conducted comprehensive training sessions on data analysis, both online and in-person, for over 300 staff in Mumbai and Maharashtra handling data.

Achievement 2

Producing evidence-informed policy recommendations for the city of Mumbai

The DIP collaborated with the Partnership for Health Cities to conduct a [Data to Policy \(D2P\)](#) program for 13 officials from the NCD department in Mumbai. A policy brief focusing on the burden of diabetes was developed during the training. The recommendations included initiation of population-based screening in the community and opportunistic screening in hospitals. In 2022, the public health department rolled out population-based screening in slum and slum-like areas in the city. The public health department trained over 3,000 community health volunteers in blood pressure monitoring and random blood sugar measurement for the active surveillance.

Achievement 3

Using CRVS data to inform programmatic changes

The DIP team facilitated the development of mortality profiles for Mumbai and conducted an in-depth analysis on the causes of death among permanent residents. Findings from the mortality analysis led the department to allocate resources towards addressing cardiovascular diseases, which emerged as the leading cause of death. The analysis and recommendations from the policy

brief (from the D2P program) prompted the Municipal Corporation of Mumbai to establish NCD corners in 16 hospitals for passive surveillance and population-based screening of NCDs for active surveillance in slum and slum-like areas. Approximately, 700,000 people have been screened through these initiatives till April 2023.

Achievement 4

Using disaggregated data to strengthen gender-based programming

Sex-disaggregated data analysis was integrated into all analytical reports and dashboards developed for Mumbai and Maharashtra, including the data on transgender population.

The DIP team provided technical support to 12 hospital-based crisis centres under the public health department (Dilaasa centres), Mumbai, that cater to survivors of gender-based violence. The team conducted analysis of data spanning five years and developed a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework for these centres. The DIP, in collaboration with Seth G.S Medical college and KEM hospital, Mumbai, conducted an autopsy-based analysis of deaths among women resulting from gender-based violence over a five-year period. The analytic report, launched by the Minister of

Women and Child Development, Maharashtra and the member secretary of the Maharashtra State Women Commission, led to a political commitment for the establishment of a multi-disciplinary inter-departmental committee (comprising the police, health, judiciary, and Women and Child commission) for prevention of gender-based violence in the state.

Achievement 5

Using digital tools for decision-making

The DIP team supported the development of decision-support NCD dashboards for monitoring program implementation, compliance, and performance in Mumbai and Maharashtra. The tools have been successfully implemented, enhancing data-driven decision-making at district and facility levels.

On-going work

Data to Policy program – Building on the successful implementation of the Data-to-Policy program in Mumbai city, the team envisions extending its impact to the broader context of the state. The DIP plans to conduct a D2P training for the Maharashtra state, in collaboration with the State Health Systems Resource Centre. The training will equip the participants with skills needed to translate data into effective policies and actions, fostering improved health outcomes at the state level.

Analytic Report on Health Inequities in Maharashtra – DI is supporting CHS, Maharashtra to develop an analytic report on health inequities. The report will help senior leadership to implement data driven policy and programmatic decisions for achieving the national goals.

Strengthening surveillance for GBV survivors

The DIP is providing support to the public health department, Mumbai, for digitization of client data at the Dilaasa centres to strengthen surveillance of survivors of gender-based violence. The use of digitalized data will enable the government to strengthen service delivery and enact impactful strategies to mitigate occurrences of gender-based violence.

Using the NCD Dashboard for decision making in Mumbai

The team has also been working with the BMC public health department towards finalization of an Excel-based dashboard to capture weekly data from the peripheral hospitals and NCD corners for non-communicable diseases (NCD).

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About Data for Health

The Data for Health Initiative is a global effort supported by [Bloomberg Philanthropies](#). It provides technical assistance and grants to governments in low-and middle-income countries worldwide to improve public health data systems including civil registration and vital statistics systems, cancer registries, and data-driven policymaking and decision-making processes. [Vital Strategies](#) serves as an implementing partner.