

Cancer Registry Program

Partnering with governments to strengthen population-based cancer registration to inform cancer control.



Cancer was the cause of death an estimated 9.7 million people in 2022, accounting for nearly one in six deaths; 70% of those deaths occur in resource-constrained countries.

Cancer registries, which track cancer data, are a foundation for cancer control but are chronically under-developed in countries currently indexed at low- or middle-income levels. Without knowledge of the current patterns of cancer and future projections, countries cannot make informed decisions on strategies for prevention, early detection, clinical management or care. Accurate data are needed to enable the planning and evaluation of cancer control activities in every country of the world.

This Cancer Registry Program, part of the Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative, works with ministries of health and their partners to establish, strengthen and expand population-based cancer registries and use the data for policymaking.

CANCER REGISTRY PROGRAM

The Cancer Registry Program supports countries in establishing and bolstering population-based cancer registries to track cancer data, which allows countries to better understand the burden of prevailing cancers within their borders and respond effectively.

Each country collaboration focuses on a combination of strengthening existing registries, building new ones where appropriate, and technical assistance and training activities. Our goal is to support a sustainable registry system to strengthen data-driven planning, including informing cancer control and prevention activities, prioritization and budgeting, and policy development.

FOCUS AREA	OUTCOMES
1. Infrastructure and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Dedicated resources for active data collection and analysis supportLinkage to civil registration and vital statistics data (where possible)Population-based registries with defined catchment area
2. Technical assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Standard operating procedures aligned with international best practicesNational cancer registration plans, public facing and internal reports, and processes, with linkage to cancer control programs
3. Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Interactive, product-oriented trainings (e.g., production of cancer incidence and other reports)Mentorship to strengthen in-country expertise
4. Supporting IARC-GICR Centers of Excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Convene African cancer registry expertiseFoster cross-center collaboration for experience and information sharingPlatform for African experts to provide technical assistance and strengthen capacity throughout the continent

Our Global Partners

- African Cancer Registry Network
- International Agency for Research on Cancer
- National Cancer Center Japan, Institute for Cancer Control
- Tata Memorial Centre

Where We Work



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.

For more information, please visit vitalstrategies.org/cancer-registry/ or contact data4health@vitalstrategies.org.

Updated on 09/29/2025