

# Executive Summary: Philippines country case study

## The Philippines government is scaling up its collection and use of health data with the support of Data for Health, an innovative new partnership

The Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Bloomberg Philanthropies developed the Data for Health Initiative as a new, innovative approach to aid. As a regional neighbour of Australia, the Philippines is a natural place to leverage this unique collaboration

between government and global partners to support human development. With the aim of improving the quality, quantity and application of health data, the Initiative is being rolled out in support of the Philippines' 2016-2022 Health Agenda, ensuring country-ownership.

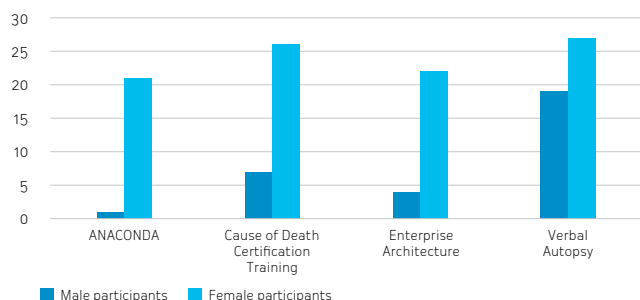
## Data for Health at work in the Philippines

### The Philippines is improving its birth and death records with the help of Data for Health

The Philippines government is committed to strengthening its civil registry and vital statistics systems, as demonstrated by its being a signatory to the Ministerial Declaration for Universal Registration in Asia and the Pacific in November 2014.

Building on this commitment, in 2015 and 2016 Data for Health focused on training people in verbal autopsy and medical certification of death. Automated coding of death certificates using IRIS software has been introduced under a new Ministry of Health technical working group on IRIS integration the Technical Working Group on Mortality has been established and is functioning.

Number of people trained in CRVS interventions in the Philippines



# 75 of the 105

PEOPLE

trained in CRVS interventions  
in the Philippines are women

## The Philippines is about to make history

In 2015 and 2016, the Philippines and Data for Health partners laid the ground work necessary for the Philippines to be one of four countries to pilot the world's first mobile

phone-based noncommunicable disease risk factor survey. The government's strong working relationships with mobile service providers positions this novel approach to succeed.

## Data for Health is helping the Philippines implement its commitment to data-driven policy

The Philippines' 2016-2022 Health Agenda includes a pledge to developing information systems that can deliver timely, accurate and complete data for decision making. To help realize this, Data for Health developed a Data Use Best Practices training for senior leadership in Philippines, supported a

cohort of Department of Health staff to participate in Data-to-Policy Training and provided advanced decision support training to the noncommunicable disease and environmental health divisions.

## Lessons and way forward

The Philippines elected a new president in mid-2016, and Initiative progress was slowed during the transition government commitment to Data for Health has been reconfirmed and the work is gaining momentum.

In the Philippines, there is substantial devolution of public health authorities to local government. However, expanding Initiative engagement to include community-level leaders and decision makers could substantially increase Data for Health's impact.

## The Philippines government is driving real change, with Data for Health support

The Philippines has provided an optimal platform for the Data for Health's unique multi-partner, catalytic approach. With implementation gaining momentum, the country is poised to make substantial gains in the quality and availability of health data. The next two years of the Initiative promise to deliver substantial return on the financial, human resource and political capital invested.

“The Data for Health Initiative has helped the Philippines government better appreciate and understand the importance of health data. Before, there were often requests for data or indicators for political reasons. Now, we have more opportunity to collect good data and help policy makers use it to make better decisions. - Government focal point