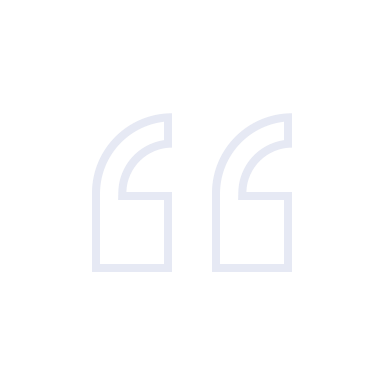
# Ecuador

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| Institutional Partner | National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC) |
| Project dates | July 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020 |
| Project Title | Implementation of Automated Mortality Coding Using Iris and Training to Physicians in Standard Death Certification Practices |

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| **Project Objectives** | **Project Outcomes and Impact** |
| * Implement Iris software to automate the coding of cause-of-death information on death certificates into International Classification of Diseases categories.   + Develop an Iris dictionary contextualized to medical terminology in Ecuador. * Evaluate the quality of Iris-assisted coding. * Institutionalize the Medical Certification of Cause of Death (MCCD) form and protocol across private and public health facilities by conducting in-person trainings. | * Implemented the Iris software.   + In an assessment of data coded in 2019 following the implementation of Iris-assisted coding, 78% of causes were correctly coded by the automated system, meeting international standards. Further, there was 99% concordance between manual and Iris coding. * Developed a comprehensive Iris dictionary adapted to Ecuador’s mortality data, enabling Iris to be implemented for automated coding of cause of death. * Leveraged Iris capabilities to accelerate the production of mortality data from 2019, and in the COVID-19 response. * Completed 30 trainings with 731 physicians on the proper completion of MCCD. * The formative work completed by the team enabled INEC to quickly code cause for deaths that occurred in 2020 and benchmark excess mortality in the context of COVID-19. This information was regularly shared with the national emergency response coordinating body, along with other key health indicators, to inform public health and social measures. |

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| **Project Sustainability** |
| * Mortality coders at INEC received the necessary trainings and coaching institutionalization to adapt Iris agency-wide. * The Iris software alleviates the impact of staff reductions at INEC by processing the bulk of mortality certificates without requiring manual coding. * The team is adapting the MCCD training materials that were developed for this project to virtual trainings that can be carried out throughout private and public health facilities remotely. |

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| **Project Outputs** | |
| * [Dynamic Mortality Reports](https://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/documentos/web-inec/Sitios/Defunciones/#ancla-1) |  |

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#### *We conclude that the Iris software, accompanied by a good dictionary, will always produce the best [results]… and the more current the dictionary is, the better the results will be.”*

***-*** *INEC*

*Internal Report, Analysis of Manual Coding and Automated Iris Coding (see right)*



Home Page for Dynamic Mortality Reports