



Empowering countries to enhance immunization and overall health service delivery through improved data collection, quality, and use.



PATH/Gabe Blenczycki

AT A GLANCE

Led by PATH, in partnership with the governments of Tanzania and Zambia, the BID Initiative is grounded in the belief that better data, plus better decisions, will lead to better health outcomes. BID was designed to create an environment in which reliable, easily accessed, and actionable data can be used to improve health outcomes.

COUNTRY OWNERSHIP

The BID Initiative is country owned and country led. Working initially on a small scale in two demonstration countries, Tanzania and Zambia, we applied an iterative, evolutionary approach to develop and perfect solutions. Between 2014 and 2018, BID successfully worked with both countries to design, implement, and scale data quality and use interventions in one province in Zambia and eight regions in Tanzania.¹ BID did not predefine solutions and instead partnered with countries to identify the most critical routine immunization service delivery problems:

- Incomplete or untimely data.
- Lack of unique identifiers for infants.
- Inaccurate or uncertain target population for calculating immunization rates.

- Difficulty identifying infants who do not start immunization or who drop out (defaulter tracing).
- Poor data visibility into supplies at the facility level to district-level data and stock.
- Complex data collection forms and tools.
- Insufficient supply chains and logistics management.
- Inadequate data management and use capacity at all levels of the health system.

Without reliable, easy-to-access, and actionable data on the barriers impeding immunization, coupled with trained data managers, health workers and decision-makers must often work with limited and anecdotal data that do not correlate with a country's actual immunization challenges.

APPROACH AND PROGRESS

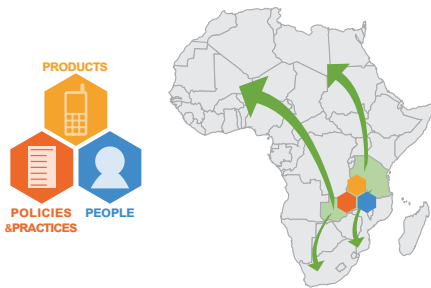
The BID Initiative believes a collection of multiple interventions is key to helping address data quality and use challenges. In Tanzania and Zambia, BID holistically invested in data management policies and practices, information system products, and the people who use them. With our country partners, we designed, tested, and fine-tuned a suite of interventions that were flexible enough to “fold in” to the countries' overall directions and existing strategies:

¹Rollout in Dodoma Region, the BID Initiative's fourth region in Tanzania, was implemented in partnership with John Snow, Inc.

- Electronic immunization registry (EIR) integrated with supply chain information system.
- Automated, simplified report generation and visualization.
- Data use campaigns.
- Peer support networks and targeted supervision for health workers.
- Barcodes or QR on child health cards and vaccine supplies for identification purposes.
- Dashboards to monitor facility and neighboring facility performance.

Health workers can now access, analyze, and act upon accurate immunization data anytime, anywhere, resulting in improved health outcomes and healthier families and communities. By 2019, nearly a million children had been entered into both EIRs. Though the initial phase of the BID Initiative ended in 2018, we continue to work with Tanzania and Zambia to ensure the sustainability of interventions. We also continue to work regionally in Africa to share our learnings and empower other countries to adopt data quality and use interventions.

Designing a replicable and holistic solution

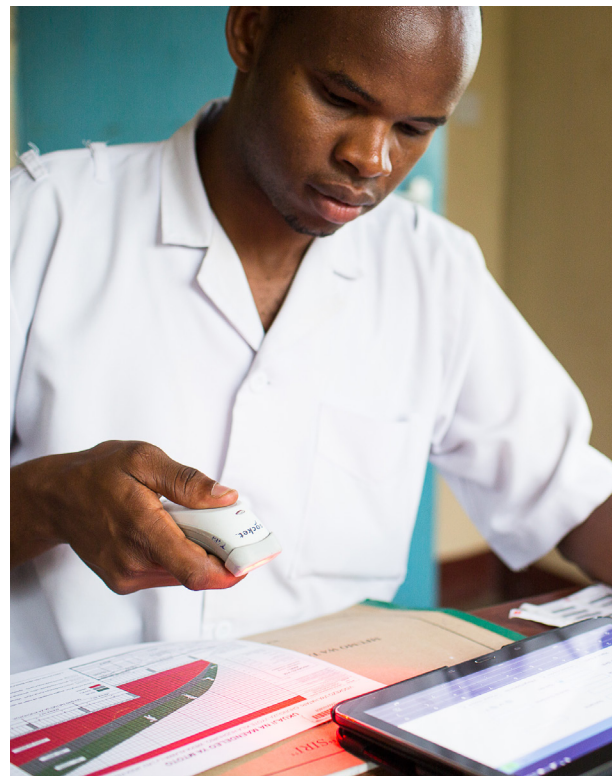


Bringing together information system products, data management policies, and the practices of people who use them to be tested in a few countries and packaged to deploy at scale in many.

BID LEARNING NETWORK

First launched in 2014, the BID Learning Network (BLN) was developed to complement and amplify the BID Initiative by convening digital health experts and immunization program leaders from across sub-Saharan Africa. BLN members participated in the initial design and testing of tools and interventions in Tanzania and Zambia and used the peer learning platform to share the work underway in their own countries. The platform continues to enable peer-to-peer learning exchanges and ensures solutions are relevant beyond BID's initial demonstration countries.

In 2018, BID launched a new branch of the BLN, called the BLN/Gavi Data Quality and Use Collaborative, which will work with countries eligible



PATH/Trevor Shapp

for support from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance to identify opportunities for learning and capacity-building among country personnel managing national immunization programs. Using webinars, panel discussions, debates, and training exercises, members will have the opportunity for continuous interaction with their peers and experts in the field.

REGIONAL MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The Regional Mentorship Program builds on our work in Tanzania and Zambia over the past five years, including our deep expertise in the design, introduction, adoption, scale-up, and sustainability of digital interventions. Mentors are partnering with select countries in Africa to improve their routine immunization programs, beginning with The Gambia, Rwanda, and Uganda. Each country is coupled with a team of PATH staff who have direct experience with BID implementation in Tanzania and Zambia. Mentor support ranges from helping countries identify the appropriate data quality and use solutions for their health system, to ensuring countries have scale and sustainability plans that allow for the long-term financing of digital platforms.

LEARN MORE

For more information on the BID Initiative, please visit www.bidinitiative.org or contact bidinitiative@path.org.