



SAVING LIVES THROUGH BETTER DATA

Strategies and Tactics from the BID Initiative

Q3 2015

From the Director

Rollout has begun in Tanzania's Arusha region and we continue to move forward with critical steps in Zambia's Southern Province to complete our intervention design and testing phase. In line with our [coordinated, user-centered approach](#), we held our first dissemination meeting in Tanzania to discuss progress to date and gather feedback on optimizing our rollout strategy. Additionally, the BID Initiative attended the 40th EPI Anniversary in Tanzania and will be featured in an upcoming documentary focused on immunization-related initiatives throughout the country.

One important step towards our progress in Zambia was the release of the [RFP for the national electronic immunization registry](#). With the University of Oslo selected as our partner to help develop this critical intervention, work is now underway while we also continue to test data-use interventions such as data visualization dashboards and micro-training videos in facilities in the Southern Province.

We look forward to convening partners and countries together for the [BID Learning Network](#) discussion meeting in December to share implementation progress, challenges, and opportunities and begin discussions around packaging BID Initiative interventions for scaling in other regions and countries. Follow our conversations in our [Google Group](#) and attend our [monthly webinars](#) for the latest developments.

You can also continue to follow our journey toward better data collection, quality and use for better health outcomes on our [blog](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#)!

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The BID Learning Network (BLN) is intended to be a platform where participants can contribute ideas, share experiences and actively participate, helping each other as you face similar challenges.

[JUMP IN. GET INVOLVED. →](#)

NOTEWORTHY BLOG POSTS

Liz Peloso
Director, the BID Initiative
PATH

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Visits Arusha



Dr. Orin Levine, accompanied by BID Initiative team members, Liz Peloso and Dr. Henry Mwanyika, with Caroline Agade, clinical officer at the Green Hope dispensary in Arusha, Tanzania.

The BID Initiative hosted a delegation from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in our test region Arusha. The visit allowed our funder to see firsthand the progress to date in facilities and learn more about how we are implementing solutions to enhance overall immunization service delivery.

Dr. Orin Levine, director of Vaccine Delivery at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, recounted his trip in an article originally posted on the Huffington Post: [Betting on Better Data](#), commenting on the importance of investing in better data for better decision-making:

"Tracking data more effectively will help us find children who have not been vaccinated, reach those who "dropped out" between doses, and get the right number of vaccines to the right place at the right time. This is the foundation of the BID Initiative."

Dr. Levine and the delegation observed many of the interventions we have implemented, including process innovations that go beyond technology, such as the establishment of a peer-support forum so health workers can help each other complete monthly

[The District Weighs in on Data Dashboards](#)

[First Look at Packaging BID Initiative Solutions](#)

[BID Rolls out in Arusha](#)

[Health Workers Meet the BID Initiative](#)

[Return on Investment: Strengthening People, Processes, and Technology Improves Supply Chain Performance in Tanzania](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly: [BLN Webinars](#)

7–11 December: [BLN Discussion Meeting](#) (By invitation only)

NOTEWORTHY RESOURCES

[Webinar: Intro to OpenHIE & Interoperability for National Information Systems](#)

[Webinar: Sharing and Reusing Health Training Content: An Introduction to ORB](#)

[Impact of Health Systems Strengthening on Health](#)

[Diagnosing Supply Chain Maturity: Supply Chain Compass Tool Helps Three Countries](#)

Led by PATH and funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Better Immunization Data (BID) Initiative is grounded in the belief that better data, plus better decisions, will lead to better health outcomes. Its vision is to empower countries to enhance immunization and

reports. We encourage you to [read the article](#) and view the [photo album](#) for an inside look at their visit.

overall health service delivery through improved data collection, quality, and use.

Nurses Adopt New Tools to Enhance Service

Photos: PATH, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation/Riccardo Gangale.



Eline Peniel Msuya and BID Initiative team member review the new modified paper registers at Green Hope Health Center in Arusha Region, Tanzania.

Green Hope Health center is a facility where we initially piloted the modified paper immunization registries to sync to the new [national electronic immunization system](#). Since June, the facility has successfully implemented the new register in part because of data champions like Eline Peniel Msuya.

Eline is 65 years old and has used the existing registers for more than 20 years. We recognize it can be challenging to adopt new tools after using the same ones for so many years, but Eline approached the change with courage and worked hard to learn how to use the new registers:

“With these modified registers, I can plan accordingly because I know how many children to expect for a month in my catchment area. This simplifies my work in terms of stock management and resource planning. For example, with the barcodes on child health cards, it is faster and easier to track vaccinations for each child rather than looking in the register books. We also educate mothers on the importance of these barcodes not only to simplify our work, but also to serve them more quickly and efficiently.”

The new paper registers will be scanned and input into the national registry at the district level to ensure data is timely and to produce a monthly immunization plan for facilities. All facilities will have visibility into the data for their area, providing notifications of children who have missed vaccines so health workers can follow up with their mother or caregiver.

Intervention Spotlight: Building a Data Use Culture



Health workers at Meru Health Facility display the data use campaign posters that will be placed in facilities to encourage health workers to use data in a meaningful way. (Translation: Accurate data is essential for sustainable immunization programs).

A key differentiator for the BID Initiative is that we are taking a holistic approach to designing and implementing interventions that address critical data-related challenges. It is not enough to deploy new technology, we also need to **create a data-use culture**. This not only means fostering behavior changes and helping health workers adopt new data collection tools and products, but it's also helping health workers understand the value of data and how it can be used to help them better deliver services.

With access to quality data and the means to make evidence-based decisions, health workers can better plan how to best use their resources to serve patients. For example, as part of the BID Initiative, health workers will receive a monthly dashboard from the district on their facility's performance as well as a comparison to other facilities in the area. If health workers have questions, they can use the new WhatsApp group, a communication forum where health workers support one another and provide encouragement as they adopt new tools and practices.

In Zambia, we've been working with our User Advisory Group to test many of these same change management activities including data use campaign posters, data use guides, micro-training videos and more.

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