



**BID INITIATIVE**

Better data. Better decisions. **Better health.**

# SAVING LIVES THROUGH BETTER DATA

Strategies and Tactics from the BID Initiative

Q4 2016

## Letter from the Director

Welcome to 2017! As we wrap up the BID Initiative's fourth year at the end of March, we have a lot to celebrate, including many successes and learnings from challenges along the way. We officially launched in Zambia last quarter implementing data-use interventions in the Southern Province and are now expanding to more districts. In Tanzania, we are completing our final two districts in Arusha Region, and over 60,000 children have been registered in the electric immunization registry (EIR).

The BID Learning Network (BLN) held a design meeting in Uganda focusing on change management, and participants visited nearby facilities to observe the success and impact of adopting their electronic health information system.

Our team traversed the globe to attend key conferences last quarter, including a strong presence from the BID Initiative and PATH teams at the Global Digital Health Forum, with representation on multiple panels. These conferences are critical to engaging partners and sharing our work.

We welcome 2017 with excitement as we will expand to additional regions in Tanzania, implement an EIR platform in Zambia, and hold additional BLN activities, including study visits and a discussion meeting. We continue to work closely with the ministries in both demonstration countries on sustainability planning. Additionally, we have partnered with the World Health Organization to develop a digital health toolkit that will incorporate our work for even broader dissemination, expected to launch in the coming months.

I encourage you to check out some of the [highlights of our work in 2016](#) and continue to follow along our journey by finding us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) and subscribing to our [blog](#).

Sincerely,



Laurie Werner  
Global Director, the BID Initiative  
PATH

Si vous désirez recevoir la version française de notre bulletin d'information, veuillez vous [abonner ici](#).

## BID Initiative launches in Zambia



Creating an improved culture of data use is critical to enabling health workers to make better decisions on service delivery and ways to improve care. The BID Initiative in Zambia and the Ministry of Health took the first steps to addressing this challenge in November when we began [rolling out the tools](#) that were carefully developed to address data challenges with immunization services.

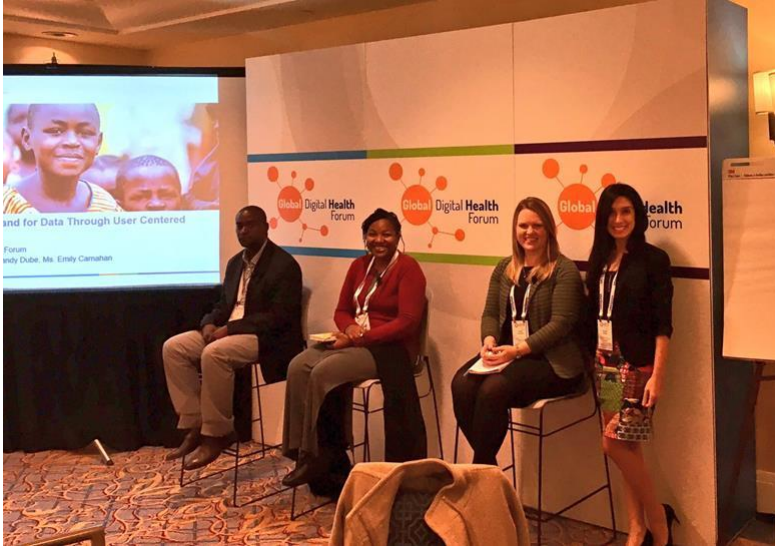
The interventions, which will lay the groundwork for improving data quality, include a data-use guide for health workers, supportive supervision plans, and a data-use campaign. We have completed the first set of visits in 18 health facilities in Livingstone District and are now moving forward in Kazungula District.

In only a few weeks of using the tools, health workers are optimistic about the gains these tools can make in their work. The data-use guide, for example, improves the quality of data that nurses collect on their tally sheets, allowing them to make better decisions in health service delivery.

We are also working to develop an electronic immunization registry (EIR) in Zambia based on [earlier lessons learned](#). When the EIR is fully developed and ready, it will be an additional tool to ease data collection and access, allowing decision-making to be more informed and efficient for health facility and district staff.

Follow our progress in Zambia facility-by-facility on our interactive [demonstration map](#).

## Experts gather from around the world at the Global Digital Health Forum



The BID Initiative, along with other PATH teams representing [Digital Health Solutions](#), [MACEPA](#), and [Projecting Health](#), presented several abstracts at the third annual [Global Digital Health Forum](#) (GDHF) in December. The forum, put on by the Personal Connected Health Alliance in partnership with the Global Digital Health Network and USAID, brought together public- and private-sector organizations to share the latest evidence, experiences, and lessons learned on new applications and approaches in digital health.

PATH's approach to digital health focuses on the importance of designing with the user in mind. The BID Initiative puts this approach into practice as we combine the development of digital tools such as the electronic immunization registry and barcode technology with interventions focused on creating a data-use culture.

The GDHF offered an amazing opportunity for our team and partners, including multiple ministry representatives from Tanzania and Zambia, to continue building links between the world of global health and information and computer technology. We look forward to collaborating and aligning our approaches and investments, increasing resource sharing, and improving alignment to [strengthen the digital health knowledge base](#).

Our presentations from the event are available on our [BLN Resource page](#), and we encourage you to read the [key takeaways](#) on our blog.

## Optimizing the rollout strategy in Tanzania



Throughout our process, we are constantly learning and tailoring our approaches to more effectively and efficiently roll out BID interventions. As we began implementing in Tanzania, we saw the need to adjust our strategy based upon lessons learned from the early district implementations.

Our refined strategy involves selecting district immunization mentors from district health staff to play a key role in implementing interventions, whereas initially, the BID team led these activities. After the mentors undergo a thorough training, they provide direct support to health workers at facilities in their districts. BID team members are available for technical support throughout implementation. This approach ties in to our plans to ensure country ownership and sustainability and helps instill confidence in the health workers who are adopting the interventions.

Our new approach will allow us to complete the remaining two districts and facilities much more efficiently. By decentralizing implementation activities, we are increasing capacity development, and health workers are more supported by their district, allowing our team to focus on more high-level support. As we prepare to roll out in additional regions in Tanzania, we will continue to analyze the effectiveness of our strategy, engaging health workers early and often to ensure a smooth adoption of new practices and tools.

## The BLN focuses on change management in Uganda



The BLN hosted another design collaborative meeting in Kampala, Uganda, in early November. The meeting brought together Ministry of Health representatives from 15 sub-Saharan African countries, including personnel involved in country Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) and management and policy positions outside of the EPI.

The meeting explored change management methodologies and how to transform behaviors and organizational cultures. Participants learned from one another and from the BID Initiative about successful implementations and how to overcome challenges when transforming cultures and behaviors.

Discussions at the meeting used **Kotter's 8-Step Change Model** as a foundation of various change management approaches, with interesting experiences and lessons shared from all country participants. Key takeaways included that cost must always be considered for implementing and sustaining change in health programs and that documenting quick wins is crucial for team motivation.

The BID Initiative Tanzania and Zambia teams shared their experiences based on their country activities, and participants visited a health facility outside Kampala to learn how the health workers adapted to using a new electronic health information system. With all these activities, this meeting was productive for



all involved, and many went back to their countries ready to apply this information.

Read [perspectives from the meeting](#), and to stay up to date on BLN activities and discussions, join our [Google Group](#).

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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. →](#)

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## NOTEWORTHY BLOG POSTS

[Uncovering a registry champion](#)

[Unleashing Digital Health to Save Lives](#)

[Rolling out change management interventions in Zambia](#)

Lessons Learned in  
Electronic Immunization  
Registry Development

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## NOTEWORTHY RESOURCES

[Global Digital Health Forum  
Presentations](#)

[Global Digital Health  
Network October Meeting  
Recap: Health Information  
Systems Interoperability](#)

[Webinar: VaxTrac Benin  
Study Visit – Reflections and  
Lessons Learned](#)

[Data Use Partnership: The  
Journey to Better Data for  
Better Health in Tanzania](#)

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*Led by PATH and funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the 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 overall health service delivery through improved data collection, quality, and use.*





*Photos: PATH/ Mali  
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