



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 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. It was designed in partnership with countries to create an environment where reliable, easily accessed, and actionable data can be used to improve health outcomes.

While our initial focus is on immunization data to first test and prove our approach, the BID Initiative is designed to be applicable and adaptable for several health areas such as nutrition or maternal, newborn, and child health.

COUNTRY OWNERSHIP

The BID Initiative is country-owned and country-led. Working initially on a small scale in two demonstration countries, Zambia and Tanzania, we're taking an iterative, evolutionary approach to developing and perfecting solutions with the users on the ground and throughout the health system. We 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.

Developing sustainable solutions to scale beyond our test sites and demonstration countries will be critical to our success and requires close partnerships with country leaders and stakeholders. We are actively working with our country partners to seek additional resources to help our demonstration countries plan for national scale and sustainability.

APPROACH & PROGRESS

The BID Initiative believes a collection of multiple interventions is key to helping address data quality and use challenges. We need a holistic investment in data management policies and practices, information system products, and the people who will use them. With our country partners, we have designed, tested, and fine-tuned a suite of interventions that are flexible

enough to “fold in” to countries’ overall directions and existing strategies:

- Electronic immunization registry with supply chain information.
- Automated, simplified report generation.
- Data use campaigns.
- Micro-training videos.
- Peer support networks.
- Barcodes on child health cards and vaccine supplies (Tanzania only).
- Targeted supportive supervision for health workers.
- Dashboards to monitor facility and neighboring facility performance.

The BID Initiative is rolling out interventions across the Arusha Region in Tanzania and Southern Province in Zambia.

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

While we are initially working in our demonstration countries, many countries in sub-Saharan Africa participate in the design and testing of tools and interventions through the BID Learning Network (BLN). The BLN enables peer-to-peer learning exchanges and will help ensure the BID Initiative’s solutions will be relevant for and facilitate adoption by not only our demonstration countries but also other countries interested in improving their health programs through better data and decision-making.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Coordinated approach. Coordinate with other key initiatives and organizations to collaborate on and/or share experiences to strengthen national immunization systems and integrated delivery of care.

Country ownership and capacity development. Focus on countries’ primary ownership and responsibilities for establishing good governance and for providing effective, high-quality immunization services for all, as well as identifying and addressing capacity-building needs.

Interoperability. Where possible, coordinate closely with existing systems to develop modules aligned with information system dependencies.

Innovation. Leverage the latest learning and technology to ensure the design of innovative solutions.

Sustainability. Consider the solution’s long-term sustainability throughout its development process and the work with demonstration countries.

Openness. Remain committed to openness and include promotion and use of open architecture, industry-based standards, and transparent, shared processes and methodologies. Openly share requirements and other technology knowledge components.

Strategic reuse. Organize to extract reusable components from appropriate projects and build new, shared components and platforms, as required.

Research, monitoring, and evaluation. Contribute to the body of knowledge that informs future investment through utilization-focused research.

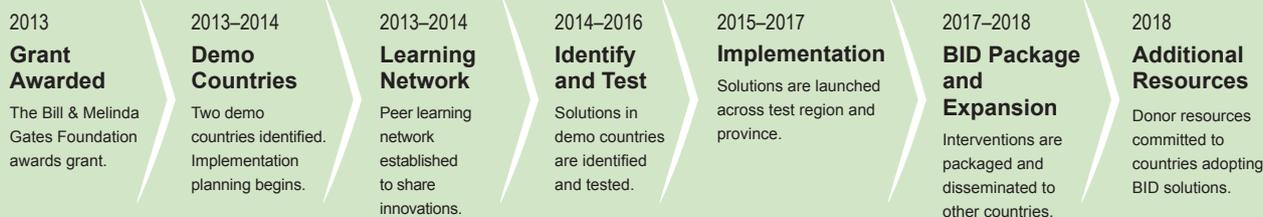
If we’re successful, a true tipping point will occur—one in which countries can access, analyze, and act upon accurate immunization data anytime, anywhere—resulting in improved health outcomes and healthier families and communities.

LEARN MORE

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

MILESTONES

Continuous discovery, testing, learning, and sharing leads to packaged solutions that will improve health service delivery in different countries, and trigger additional funding to further expand impact.



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