



## BID Initiative Tanzania

Partnering with countries to enhance overall health service delivery through better data quality, collection, and use.



PATHTrevor Snapp

### AT A GLANCE

Routine immunizations and new vaccine introductions are two of the best investments for improving health in Tanzania and around the world. Immunization rates in Tanzania have increased significantly during the past decade, reaching roughly 90 percent. But reaching every child will require better data and a data-use culture.

The BID Initiative is partnering with the Tanzania Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MOHCDGEC) through the Immunization and Vaccines Development (IVD) Program. Together, we are creating 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, country-led. We worked with the MOHCDGEC to identify Tanzania's most critical routine immunization service delivery problems:

- Incomplete or untimely data.
- Inaccurate or uncertain target population for

calculating immunization rates.

- Difficulty identifying infants who do not start immunization or who drop out (defaulter tracing).
- Lack of unique identifiers for infants.
- 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.

Working initially on a small scale in Arusha region, we are taking an iterative, evolutionary approach to developing and perfecting solutions through a User Advisory Group so interventions reflect the reality on the ground and can be sustained by the people who will actually use them.

Demonstrating BID solutions at scale beyond Arusha region will be critical for success and requires close partnerships with Tanzania country leaders and stakeholders. We are also actively working with MOHCDGEC to seek additional resources to help Tanzania plan for national scale and sustainability.

### APPROACH & PROGRESS

The MOHCDGEC is committed to strengthening immunization programs through better data quality and creating a data-use culture among health





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workers. To achieve this goal, we need a holistic investment in information system products, data management policies and practices, and the people who will use them. Together, we tested and are rolling out a range of solutions:

- Electronic immunization registry with supply chain information.
- Automated, simplified report generation.
- Barcodes on child health cards and vaccine supplies.
- Targeted supportive supervision for health workers.
- Peer support networks.

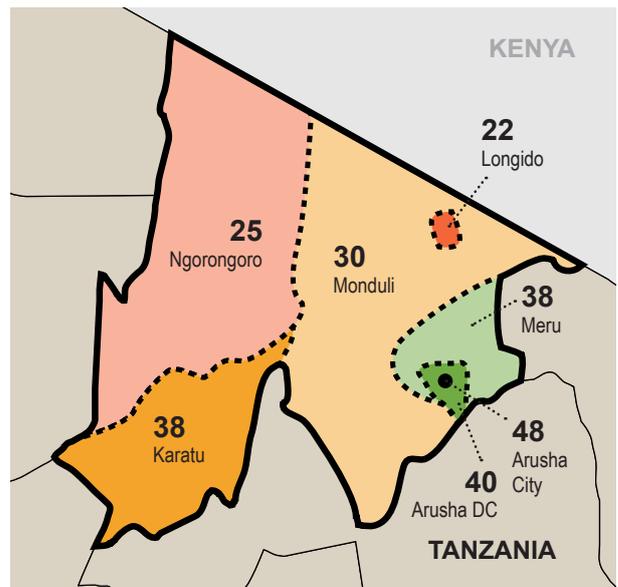
While our focus is on initial demonstration countries, Tanzania and Zambia, many countries in sub-Saharan

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 helps ensure BID Initiative solutions will be relevant for other countries and facilitates adoption for those interested in improving their health programs.

With the government's commitment to better data, coupled with trained and empowered data users at all levels of the health system, we can improve immunization coverage and overall health in Tanzania.

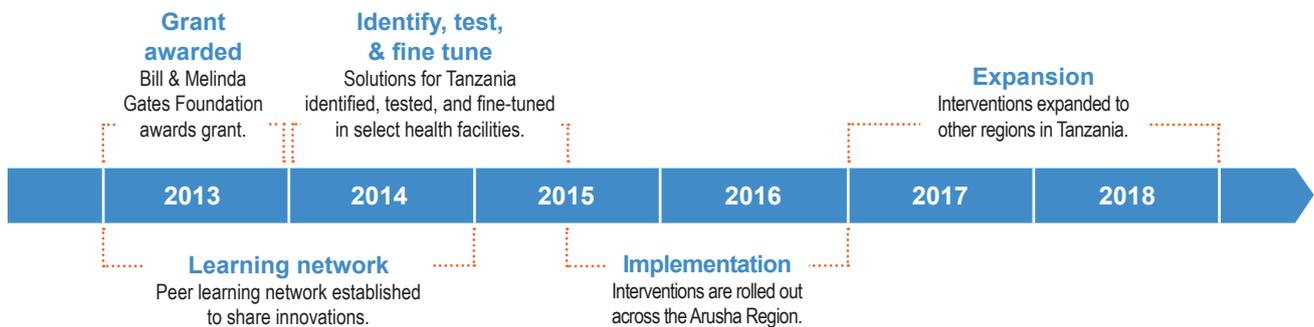
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**Figure 1. Number of facilities that will implement interventions in each area within the Arusha region.**



For more information on the BID Initiative, please visit [www.bidinitiative.org](http://www.bidinitiative.org) or contact [bidinitiative@path.org](mailto:bidinitiative@path.org).

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