Better Immunization Data Initiative

Better data plus better decisions will lead to better health outcomes.

AT A GLANCE

Routine immunizations and new vaccine introductions have proven to be two of the best investments to improving health around the world. While immunization rates in Africa have improved significantly in the last decade, reaching roughly 75 percent, reaching the final 25 percent will require better data.

Led by PATH and funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Better Immunization Data (BID) Initiative’s vision is to empower countries to enhance immunization and overall health service delivery through improved data collection, quality, and use.

THE CHALLENGE

Global stakeholders and national governments acknowledge that there are strong challenges related to data quality, yet few can identify which problems matter most, or they have difficulty pinpointing the scope of the problems within a particular country.

Without reliable, easily accessed, and actionable data on the barriers impeding immunizations, coupled with trained data managers, countries and global stakeholders interested in improving immunization coverage are working with limited and often anecdotal data that may not correlate with the actual issues.

THE APPROACH

The BID Initiative is designed to shine a light on the challenges surrounding data collection, quality, and use, and identify practical, country-owned, country-led solutions in immunization that could spread to other health interventions.

We are partnering with countries and global health stakeholders to develop and deploy a holistic and scalable approach. It will be demonstrated at scale in three different country contexts within five years and if effective, packaged so it can be easily and cost-effectively adapted by other countries interested in improving immunization management.

If we are 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.

DEMONSTRATION COUNTRIES

After an analysis of countries in Sub-Saharan Africa to determine which would be best suited as a demonstration country, followed by visits to potential implementation sites, Tanzania and Zambia emerged as viable demonstration country partners.
Based on consultations with a variety of stakeholders, including the BID Initiative country partners, we are testing interventions to help address problems that are common in many countries. Interventions include but are not limited to:

- National electronic immunization registries
- Automated, simplified report generation
- Supply chain systems tools
- Use of barcodes on registries and vaccines
- Targeted supportive supervision
- Community micro-training videos

A third demonstration country will be selected in 2015 – 2016.

**PEER-LEARNING NETWORK**

The BID Initiative was designed with an embedded peer-to-peer learning network, the BID Learning Network (BLN) consisting of country partners who are grappling with similar challenges.

The BLN is a platform to offer ideas, share perspectives and provide feedback. It will enable countries to learn from one another, developing solutions to common problems and directly influencing the BID Initiative’s approach.

**MILESTONES**

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

**KEY ACTIVITIES**

2013
Grant Awarded
The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awards grant.

2013/2014
Demo Countries
Demo countries 1 & 2 identified. Implementation planning begins.

2013/2014
Learning Network
Peer learning network established to share innovations.

2014/2015
Identify and Test
Solutions in demo countries are identified and tested.

2016/2017
BID Package
Package and disseminate solutions to other countries.

2018
Expansion
Interventions introduced in additional countries.

2018
Additional Resources
Donor resources committed to countries adopting BID solutions.

**SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES**

2013-2018 Improved immunization data interventions applied to scale in demo country 1.

2013-2017 Improved immunization data interventions applied 30% in demo country 2.

**LEARN MORE**

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

**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 solutions’ need for 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.