



# SAVING LIVES THROUGH BETTER DATA

Strategies and Tactics from the BID Initiative

Q3 2014

## From the Director

This quarter has been particularly exciting for me as the BID Initiative team has grown exponentially. We've been busy recruiting for several roles and hiring a talented team who will help turn the BID Initiative's vision into a reality. I'm also excited to announce that our satellite offices in Arusha, Tanzania and Livingstone, Zambia are now open! These offices are at the heart of the BID Initiative and where many of our interventions will first be tested and rolled out.

Additionally, we recently released our Product Vision which leads readers through the steps to organize how processes and information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure can be integrated and standardized to meet a ministry of health's vision and requirements. We've also made a lot of great traction with the BID Learning Network (BLN), having robust dialogue in our [Google Groups](#) and planning for the upcoming [BLN design collaborative meeting](#) in Lusaka.

Keep an eye on our [blog](#) and the BLN [events page](#) to stay up-to-date on the BID Initiative's activity.

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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. →](#)



Liz Peloso  
Director, the BID Initiative  
PATH

## Release of the Product Vision



The BID Initiative has always reiterated the importance of partnering with African countries from the start. Through the [BLN](#), we are working to introduce information system products and data use policies and practices that can be tested in our demonstration countries, packaged for dissemination, and then deployed at scale in many other countries. With input from the BLN and contributions from ministry representatives in our demonstration countries, Tanzania and Zambia, the BID Initiative recently published its [Product Vision](#).

The Product Vision combines a “top down” approach with a “bottom up” view and begins with the national strategies, incorporating the current context of the users (e.g., the functional architecture) before considering the facility applications (e.g., the technical architecture) that are in use and have gained traction, and how they might tie together. While a basic understanding of eHealth is assumed, we used a storytelling approach and the document is written in plain language with background information, illustrations of key points, and many examples.

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

18/11/2014  
Quality Improvement  
Webinar

1/12/2014 – 4/12/2014  
BLN Design Collaborative  
(invite only)

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### NOTEWORTHY BLOG POSTS

[Product Vision for the BID Initiative is Published!](#)

[Pilot Testing the Tool Sets Tone for Improving Immunization Data Quality and Use](#)

[Data Power: Preventing Disease on the Ground](#)

[The Importance of Data in the Ebola Outbreak](#)

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



Photos: PATH

We encourage you to review the [Product Vision](#) and also contribute to our upcoming [Google Groups](#) discussion as we do a deeper dive into each of the seven chapters.

## BID Learning Network Update

We are pleased to welcome Chilunga Puta as the BLN Director based in Zambia. Her role will focus on managing and engaging the BLN participant countries and ensuring strategies are aligned for joint learning and communications to help meet the BID Initiative's objectives.

The BLN hosted its first webinar on [Enterprise Architecture](#) presented by Derek Ritz Principle from ecGroup Inc., a boutique eHealth consultancy and Liz Peloso, the BID Initiative Global Director. The webinar focused on what enterprise architecture is, why it is important, and how ministries of health can leverage straightforward techniques to develop a national-scale blueprint to guide their ICT investments.

Stemming from [Google Group](#) discussions and interest, the BLN's most recent webinar focused on [Electronic Immunization Registries](#) on the 28th of October, 2014. We encourage you to view both the webinars and the recap of the [discussion on Electronic Immunization Registries](#) from the Google Group.

Finally, with the BID Initiative beginning its identification and testing phase of various interventions, select BLN participants will be invited to convene for a design collaborative meeting in Lusaka, Zambia from the 1st to the 4th of December, 2014. Keep an eye on the [BLN page](#) for additional information as we near the event.

[READ THE Q&A WITH OUR BLN DIRECTOR](#)

[VIEW UPCOMING BLN EVENTS](#)

## Demonstration Country Updates



Both satellite offices are now up and running in Arusha, Tanzania and Livingstone, Zambia where the BID initiative is conducting a test phase of select interventions and baseline assessments. We continue actively recruiting staff with a total of 22 team members based in our demonstration countries, including our newly hired Zambia Director, Dr. Fwasa Singogo.

In Tanzania, we established the [User Advisory Group \(UAG\)](#) in the Arusha region to ensure the solutions we propose and implement are applicable to and sustained by the people who will use them. This group, which is made up of staff from across the Tanzanian health system (nurses, facility managers, district and regional immunization officers), as well as from local government in the Arusha region are playing a critical role in providing input on the specific interventions being tested.

Additionally, Tanzania has begun testing several interventions in the Arusha region including national electronic immunization registries, improved tools to manage supply chain for vaccine supplies, and data use interventions designed to build a data culture and encourage health worker data use. Zambia will begin testing similar interventions in the coming months.

[GET ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON DEMO COUNTRY INTERVENTIONS](#)

[MEET OUR GLOBAL TEAM](#)

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