



BID Initiative Learning Network (BLN)

Update for BLN Discussion Meeting
Arusha, Tanzania, 8th December, 2015



BETTER IMMUNIZATION DATA
INITIATIVE

BLN BACKGROUND

The BID Initiative's Vision

- Empower countries to enhance immunization and overall health service delivery through improved data collection, quality, and use.



BLN in the Context of BID

- **The BID Learning Network (BLN) is embedded within the BID Initiative as a conduit for peer interaction and learning with the following aims:**
 - Bring countries together to identify shared problems and solutions and connect with peers.
 - Use this knowledge to design common information system products, practices, and data policies.
 - Experiment with these designs in countries to determine their applicability.
 - Use this experience to inform national and global decision-making.

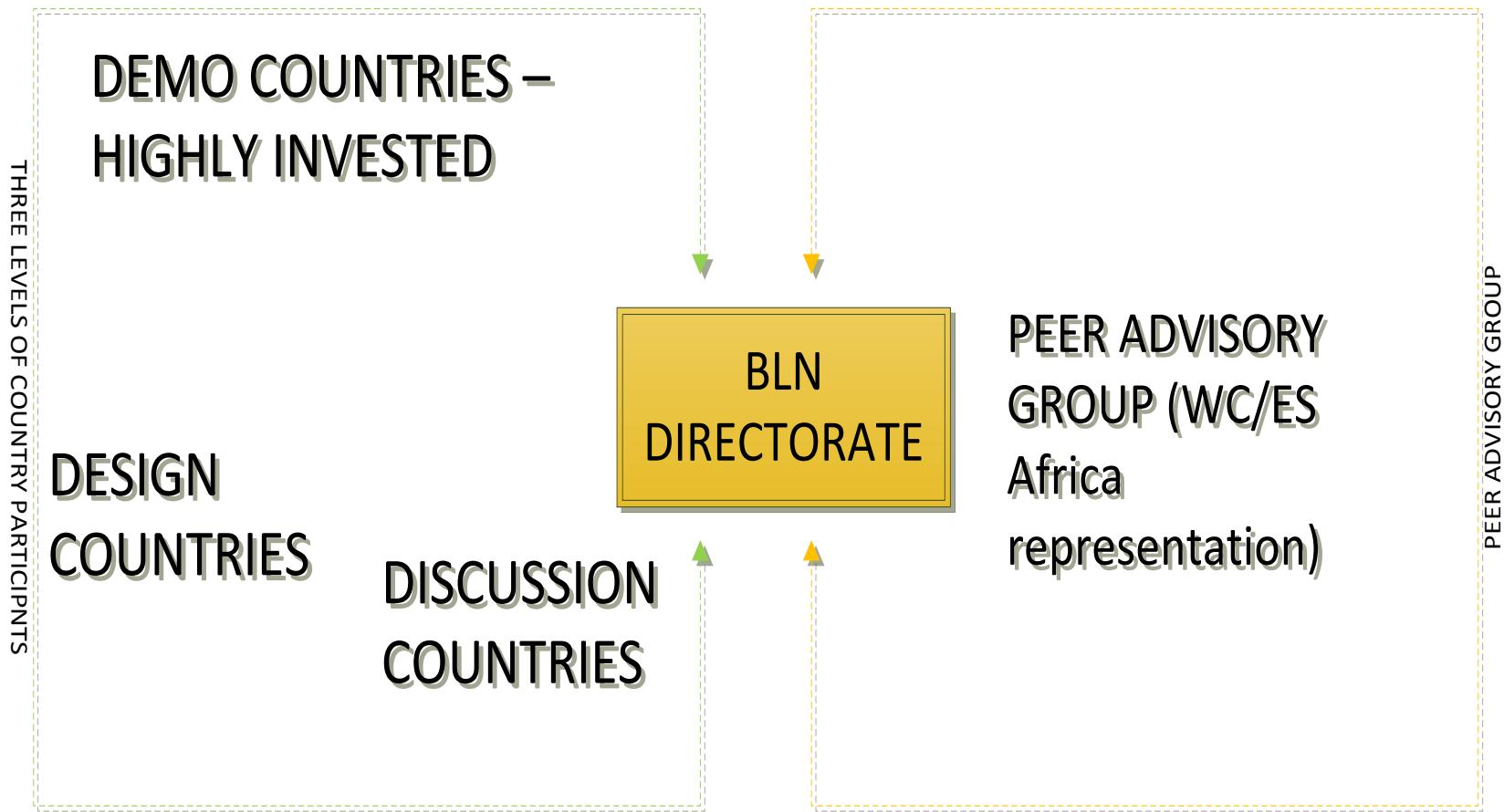
BLN Overarching Goal

Enable a functional African community of practice that designs contextually relevant immunization information systems that generate timely, high-quality data that can be used for evidence-based decision making, resulting in improved delivery and coverage of immunization services.





BLN Governance Structure



BLN OPERATING PRINCIPLES

- Countries lead the process (bottom up) – establish a governance structure that allows for country input.
- Member countries actively participate and contribute to the BLN agenda.
- Commitment to creating a vibrant community of practice through sharing, collaboration and interaction, innovation, re-use and learning.



OVERVIEW OF KEY BUILDING ELEMENTS FOR A VIBRANT COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

SHARE - everyone has something to teach and everyone has something to learn

COLLABORATE AND INTERACT – threaded discussions – tweets, blogs, Facebook, etc.; webinars by experts and people from participating countries; conversations and interactions and collective problem solving through design collaborative.

INNOVATE – brainstorming; building on each other's ideas, developing new and better ways of doing things; includes leveraging the latest learning and technology to ensure the design of innovative solutions

RE-USE - organize to extract reusable components from appropriate projects and build new, shared components and platforms, as required

LEARN – about success and failures through: peer learning; invited guests; documentation and dissemination of field experiences



WHAT WE ARE DOING AND WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED

M3.1: Engage BLN members in the development of BID Initiative solutions through a design collaborative

Major Activities

- Establishment of Multi-Country Design Collaborative
 - Objectives
 - Provide a platform for peers to interact, brainstorm and formulate ways in which data generation, quality and use can be improved
 - Give opportunity for countries to share their innovations, successes, challenges and ideas to overcome those challenges and receive feedback from peers
 - Promote the building of relationships between peers from different countries with similar problems
 - Provide a platform where common requirements for BID technical components can be generated and refined
 - Provide a platform for information dissemination
 - Currently 16 countries participating in these activities: 11 West Africa; 6 East/Southern Africa

M3.1: Engage BLN members in the development of the BID solution through a design collaborative

Major Activities

- Establishment of Multi-Country Design Collaborative
 - So far three meetings have been convened for the collaborative:
 - Launch in Kigali Rwanda
 - Collaborative on Registries – Lusaka Zambia
 - Collaborative on LMIS – Dakar, Senegal
- Key lessons
 - These are good platforms for further engagement using virtual channels
 - Participants from the design collaborative show willingness to share their country progress through webinars and on the discussion forum
 - Expensive, but invaluable for establishing initial rapport between peers, country participants, and BID staff

M3.2: Package and disseminate tools to assist other countries in adopting the BID solutions

Major Activities

- This activity is still nascent and is expected to rapidly grow as demonstration countries generate products and lessons learned
- Session to discuss during this meeting

Designing a replicable and holistic solution



M3.3: Establish learning exchanges across BLN members

Major Activities

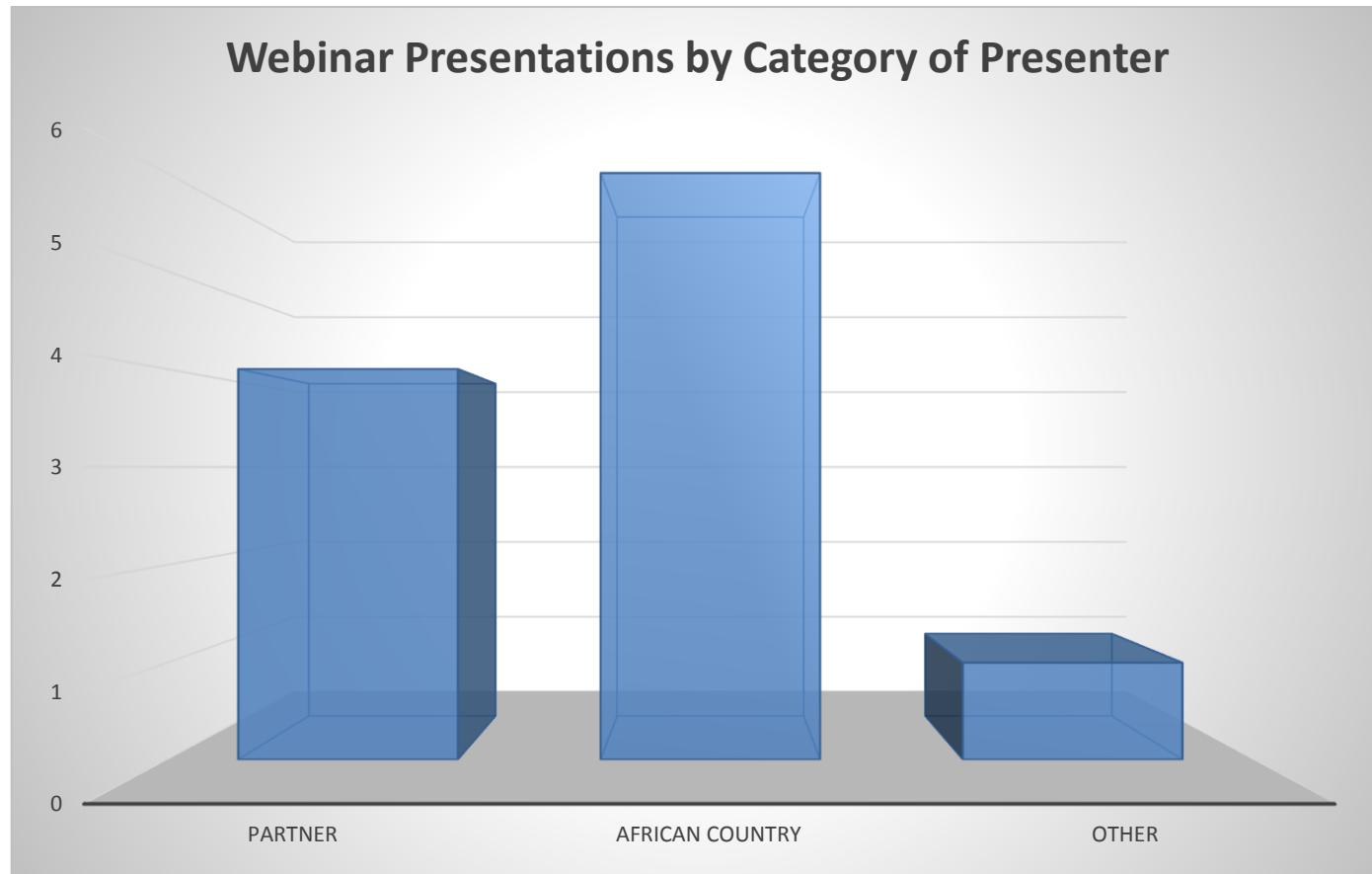
- Convene Annual Discussion Meetings
 - Objectives
 - Provide opportunity for interaction, review, and appraisal of pertinent work in both design and demonstration countries
 - Provide a platform for country delegates and partners to disseminate critical information
 - Provide a platform to share progress in BID demonstration countries, recognize performance, and receive feedback from a wider audience

M3.3: Establish learning exchanges across BLN members

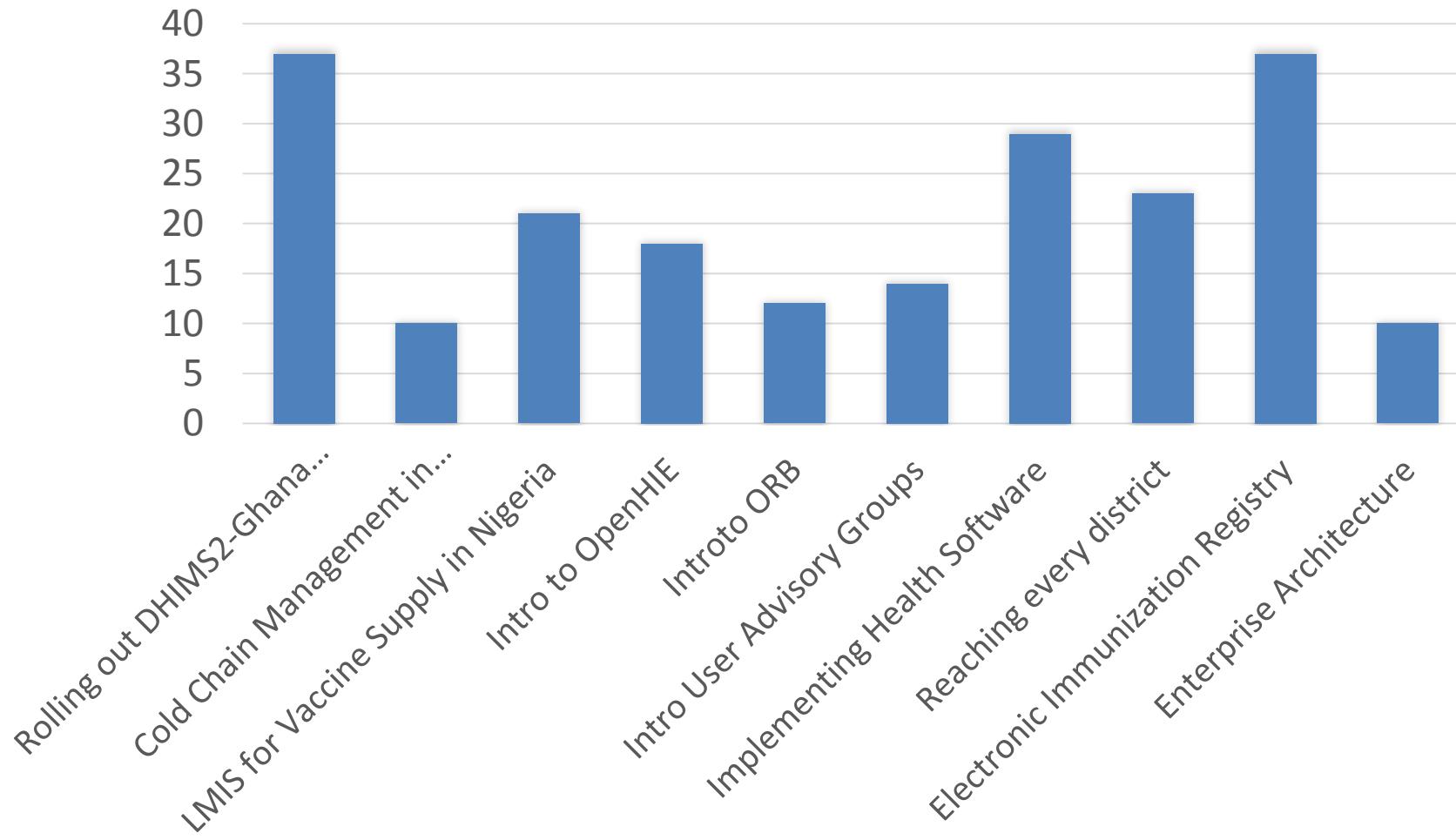
Major Activities

- Webinars
 - Provide an opportunity for both countries and partners to share important information related to data collection, quality and use
 - Convened once a month
 - Key lessons
 - Countries are keen to participate, but are sometimes limited by technology – internet connections can be very vexing
 - Good attendance rates overall – so far lowest has been 10, highest 37 live views
 - Hot topics are registries, implementation and LMIS
 - Good platform for interaction between different groups

Country Participation in Making Webinar Presentations



Number of Live Views by Webinar Type



M3.3: Establish learning exchanges across BLN members

Major Activities

- Google Groups Discussion Forums (361 members)
 - Two types of platforms
 - Subject specific (LMIS, Registries, Change Management)
 - General group
 - Lessons learned
 - Affordable forum for discussion, but hard work to keep conversations running
 - Variable participation rates, and can go quiet without consistent prompting – definitely requires a fully committed community manager
 - Need right mix of topics to sustain interest
 - Countries more inclined to participate in discussions related to practical issues of implementation
 - Linguistic differences are a significant barrier at this point in time

M3.3: Establish learning exchanges across BLN members

Major Activities

- BLN Channels are supplemented by
 - Social media interactions (Twitter, Facebook);
 - Resources available for download from the BID website
- Supporting learning and innovation through study visits (first planned for next year) and award of BLN small grants (yet to have a successful applicant)

LOOKING TO THE
FUTURE

Looking to the future

Issues we would value the BLN community's input on

- Increased regional and country ownership of BLN
 - What is the best approach?
 - Forge strategic linkages with participant country government organs?
 - Advocate to key decision makers at regional and country levels?
 - Forge linkages with participant country professional bodies?
 - Encourage connectivity between regional BLN members and country level peer learning networks?

- **Looking to growing a vibrant and durable learning community** – what are some approaches you can share? How can we finance expanded activities?

Q & A